Researching Mormons in Texas, 1830 - 1930:
An Annotated Bibliography
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ARTICLES & ESSAYS:

"A Bandera County Pioneer." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 1 (July 1924):12-14.

This short article is a reprint of "Judge **George Hay**," as published by John Marvin Hunter in his *Pioneer History of Bandera County: Seventy-five Years of Intrepid History*, pages 111-116. The article contains a short biography of George Hay, who was a member of Wight's colony. This biographical sketch adds more detailed to Hay's life and times than the one published in the History of Bandera County.

Hunter also mentions Hay on pages 1040-1041, in his publication *The Trail Drivers of Texas: Interesting Sketches of Early Cowboys and Their Experiences on the Range and on the Trail during the Days That Tried Men's Souls--True Narratives Related by Real Cowpunchers and Men who Fathered the Cattle Industry in Texas*. Compiled and edited by J. Marvin Hunter, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985 [c1924], 1085pp.

https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/blog/george-hay-a-bandera-county-pioneer

https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-01-no-10-july-1924 (An Excerpt only)

Also, as an addendum to the above, Hunter reports the death of George Hay on February 6th, 1925, in *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 2 (March 1925): 22.

https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-02-no-06-march-1925 (An Excerpt only)

Full-text articles from the *Frontier Times* may be purchased and downloaded at:

https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm

Andrus, Hyrum L. "Joseph Smith and the West." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 2 (1960): 129-147.

An article about the westward view of Joseph Smith and Mormonism. On pages 137-140, Andrus reviews the Texas settlement possibility and option.

https://byustudies.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2.2AndrusJoseph-9e2c7594-2123-43ed-a1ca-4cfb4cacdd5d.pdf

***Babcock-Hall, Ida. "Memories of Mormon Mills." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 18 (July 1941): 463-467.

The author recalls that as a small child her family traveled 30 miles to Mormon Mill to grind their wheat. She deftly describes (from both memory and quotes of Smithwick) the mill and surrounding area as it was then and how is it now.

https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-18-no-10-july-1941 (An Excerpt only)

***Banks, C. Stanley. "The Mormon Migration into Texas." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 49 no. 2 (October **1945**): 233-244.

This excellent article contains a factual narrative of the Wight colony, along with several

quotes from Smithwick's book, *Evolution of a State*. This is the first published article (outside the Church) about the Lyman Wight colony and its effect and influence on Texas and its peoples.
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth146056/m1/266/?q=mormon%20migration

Bennett, Richard E. "Lamanism, Lymanism, and Cornfields." *Journal of Mormon History* 13 (1987): 44-59.

Details the flight of many Saints after the death of Joseph Smith, especially Alpheus Cutler, Bishop George Miller and Lyman Wight.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/alpheus-cutler

Bitton, Davis. “Lyman Wight: Wild Ram of the Mountains.” In *Saints Without Halos: The Human Side of Mormon History*. Leonard J Arrington and Davis Bitton. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1981, 20-30.

A modest-sized biographical essay giving a good glimpse of Lyman Wight.
http://signaturebookslibrary.org/saints-without-halos-02-2/
https://www.google.com/search?q=Bitton%2C+Davis.+%E2%80%9CThe+Ram+and+the+Lion%3A+Lyman+Wight+and+Brigham+Young&rlz=1C1CHZL_enUS738US738&oq=Bitton%2C+Davis.+%E2%80%9CThe+Ram+and+the+Lion%3A+Lyman+Wight+and+Brigham+Young&aqs=chrome..69i57.1155j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

***Bitton, Davis. **"Mormons in Texas, The Ill-Fated Lyman Wight Colony, 1844-1858."** *Arizona and the West: A Quarterly Journal of History* 11 (Spring **1969**): 5-26.

A studious article that builds upon the foundation of Bank's earlier work. Bitton not only relates the facts, dates, and travels of the colony (via Heman H. Smith's unpublished work), but he also deals with the larger religious and psychological setting of the community. This article is the most thorough of the several published articles on the Wight colony. It also includes excellent footnotes, **photographs**, and a map of the colony's movements. Problematic with the study is 1) the lack of local Texas history, this would not only add richness to the times and events mentioned, but it would also put the Wight colony into better historical and regional perspective; 2) the author seems unaware of the "Lyman Wight Letterbook," and 3) the author does not use the information from Smithwick's memoirs, *Evolution of a State*.

Bitton, Davis. “The Ram and the Lion: Lyman Wight and Brigham Young,” in *The Disciple as Witness: Essays on Latter-day Saint History and Doctrine in Honor of Richard Lloyd Anderson*, Provo, Utah: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies at Brigham Young University, 2000, 37-60.

A short but scholarly biography of Lyman Wight detailing his relationship with the Church and the other members of the twelve apostles and the council of Fifty and his loathly relationship with Brigham Young (the second leader of the Mormons).

Blackburn, Manasseh J. "Our Mission Sunday Schools: History of the **Myrtle Sunday School**, Essex, Texas." *Juvenile Instructor* [Salt Lake City] 37 (August 1,

1902): 473-475.

Tells of a mission conference in 1900 at Hutchens, Texas and the missionaries assigned to Upshur County. Reports about the missionaries finding the **Edgar brothers, John & James**, and due to their efforts, a Sunday School was organized (called Myrtle) in August 1901 with 21 members. A branch was organized on December 29th. A photo is included along with the names of the people involved.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=c48e9508-4811-4627-8453-68755b60bacd&crate=0&index=0

***Blythe, Christopher James, "**The Church and the Kingdom of God**: Ecclesiastical Interpretations of the Council of Fifty," *Journal of Mormon History*, 43, no. 2 (2017): 100-130.

This is the first article to be published about the "Kingdom of God" after the minutes of the Council of Fifty were published – it shows that the Council of Fifty was the culmination of the Latter-day Saints' millenarian expectations and political theory. In particular, the Saints were frustrated with the federal government's refusal to address their pleas for redress from the persecution they faced from the state of Missouri. Smith criticized human governments as corrupt and impermanent and offered "theodemocracy" as a radical alternative to the political democracy of the United States.

Blythe, Christopher James. "With Full Authority to Build Up the Kingdom of God on Earth: **Lyman Wight on the Council of Fifty**," in *The Council of Fifty: What the Records Reveal about Mormon History*. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, BYU, 2017, 141-152.

Examines the relationship of Wight with the "Council of Fifty."
https://rsc.byu.edu/council-fifty/full-authority-build-kingdom-god-earth

Booth, C. C. "Lyman Wight in Early Texas." *Improvement Era* [Salt Lake City] 57 (January 1954): 26-27, 62-63.

An LDS version of the history of the Lyman Wight Colony—author does give the **reading of the two State markers** about the different settlements, also has several **photos** of the sites.
https://archive.org/details/improvementera5701unse/page/n27/mode/2up
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8927173c-5abb-4092-a9b0-a9e3cb0b9bc4/0/0

Brady, Margaret K. "In Her Own Words: Women's Frontier Friendships in Letters, Diaries, and Reminiscences," in *Worldviews and the American West: The Life of the Place Itself, e*ds. Suzi Siporin Jones, Steve Stewart, Polly Sullivan. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2000, 162-178.

A lot of valuable information about women and their relationships and a lot about Texas.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=usupress_pubs

Bryson, Conrey. "Saints at 'the Pass.'" *The Ensign* [Salt Lake City] 21 (December 1991): 67-68.

A homey and favorable article about the settlement of Latter-day Saints in El Paso, Texas and Mexico.
https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1991/12/news-of-the-church/saints-at-

the-pass?lang=eng

Chanslor, L. A. "A Bell County Tragedy." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 29 (May 1952): 231-232.

A two-page article about the starting of a Mormon settlement in western Bell County, Texas, in 1856. The article states that "12 or 15 Mormons preachers [missionaries] were... [sent] to gain converts..., but in fact [they were] to get all the likeable young women wherever possible as converts to the faith and later wives for the glorified church dignitaries in Salt Lake City." (While trying to document the historicity of the above article, I found no mention of Mormons in either history of Bell County: George W. Tyler's, The History of Bell County, Edited by Charles W. Ramsdell, Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1971 [c1936], 425pp.; or Bertha Atkinson's, History of Bell County: With List of Bell County Confederate Veterans, Austin: 1929, 139pp.)

Chipman, Montie and Denson, Mrs. Edith. "The Family Tree." *The Bandera County Historian* [Bandera County Historical Commission, Rt. 2, Box 6408, Pipe Creek, TX 78063] 1 (Summer 1979): 3.

The authors give a genealogical record of **Ezra Alpheus Chipman**, a colonist with the Wight group. Also, on page four is a note by Wilford Leibold about the location of Mormon Camp or Mountain Valley, and the naming of Sawmill Cove.

***Clark, David L. "**The Mormons of the Wisconsin Territory: 1835-1848**." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 37, no. 2 (**1997**): 57-85.

An excellent article dealing with the group of Mormons (around 150) who went on a "mission" to Wisconsin to fell lumber for the building of Nauvoo—this was the start of the group that would become the Lyman Wight colony.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/the-mormons-of-the-wisconsin-territory-18351848/
Also see (in chronological order):
Sanford, Albert H. "**The Mormons of Mormon Coulee**." *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 24, no. 2 (December **1940**): 129-142.
https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/wmh/id/13616/
Rowley, Dennis. "**The Mormon Experience in the Wisconsin Pineries, 1841-1845**." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 32, no. 1-2 (Winter and Spring **1991**): 119-148.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/the-mormon-experience-in-the-wisconsin-pineries-18411845/
Johnson, Melvin C. "**Wightites in Wisconsin: The Formation of a Dissenting Latter Day Community (1842-1845**)." *The John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 32, no. 1 (**2012**): 63-78.

What the author did not cover in his book (*Polygamy on the Pedernales*) on the Wight colony – their beginnings at the Wisconsin pinery.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16noj_RBgUPc1pgFuGzp7sL8Gn3TvXNKr
Grow, Matthew J. and Brian Whitney, "**The Pinery Saints: Mormons Communalism at Black River Falls, Wisconsin**." *Communal Societies* 36, no. 2 (**2016**): 153-170.

Coker, Caleb and Janet G. Humphrey. "The Texas Frontier in 1850: Dr. Ebenezer Swift and the View from Fort Martin Scott." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 96, no. 3 (January 1993): 393-414.

Gives background of the time period and the Fort that the Lyman Wight colony worked on

and at.

Cooney, Toni Lynn. "Mount Bonnell: Romantic Landmark of Legend and Lore." *Austin* [Official Publication of the Austin Chamber of Commerce] 8 (February 1967): 36-38.

This article gives a brief chronology of Mount Bonnell, with a small paragraph of coverage given to the Wight colony.

Cumiford, William L. "Mormon Mills." *Technology* (Fall 1976): 16-17.

The article gives a brief history of the mill and a **chronology of its owners** from inception to 1976.

"The Curator's Corner." *The Winedale Press* 1 (November 1971): 3.

The Winedale Press is the irregular newsletter of the Winedale Historical Center at the University of Texas at Austin. In this short column (the curator's corner) the area of Mormon Mill is pondered, while also reflecting on Noah Smithwick. The article adds no new information about the colony.

***Currie, Susan. "Texas History 101: **Texas is Mormon Country, and it has Been for a Long Time**." *Texas Monthly*, October 2001. Accessed March 22, 2021.

A favorable article about **the LDS Church in Texas** with a few paragraphs about the Lyman Wight colony.
https://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/texas-history-101-59/

***Dorigatti, Barbara T (compiled by). "**Settlement of New Mexico and Texas by Utah Pioneers**," in *Pioneer Pathways,* Daughters of Utah Pioneers*,* 11 (2008): 317-368.

An excellent retelling of the Lyman Wight colony and their movements and history; as well as **a general history of the LDS Church within Texas since 1830**, also included are the LDS history in El Paso and the establishment of the Mormon colony of **Kelsey** in 1897. **Photos included: Kelsey state marker, and a house still standing in Kelsey; Ezra Alpheus Chipman, map of Zodiac, Mill on Hamilton Creek, Preston Thomas, map of the Wight colony settlements, the Orange Wight family and Lyman & Harriet Wight**.

Esplin, Ronald K. "`A Place Prepared': Joseph, Brigham and the Quest for Promised Refuge in the West." *The Journal of Mormon History* 9 (1982): 85-111.

Discusses and gives detail to the West as the gathering place for the Saints, Joseph Smith's vision of the West as well as Brigham Young's understanding that the gathering would take place in the West.

Evans, Margaret. "**George Hay**." *The Bandera County Historian* [Pipe Creek, TX] 2 (Spring 1980): 3.

A short column about George Hay and his life in early Bandera County.

Ferris, Norman B., and Morris J. Snedaker. "The Diary of Morris J. Snedaker,

1855-1856." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 66, no. 4 (1963): 516-46. Accessed March 22, 2021. http://www.jstor.org/stable/30236261.

Snedaker (1818-1882), was called on a **mission to Texas** for the Mormon Church from September 1855 to November 1856. This article contains his diary entries for that 15-month period.
https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHZL_enUS738US738&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=Morris+J.+Snedaker+mormon&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi4gezZ5ezvAhXaZc0KHVdJC8AQ7Al6BAgMEBE&biw=1318&bih=714&dpr=1.25

Ghormley, Pearl. "A Modern Zion." *Texas Parade* 12 (August 1951): 8-9.

A three column wide, two-page article traces the Lyman Wight colony from their entrance near Austin where they built the "city's first jail and a grist mill, erected shops, small cabins and planted corn. Virgin hackberry trees were converted into lumber and converted into chairs, bedsteads, and tables." Noah Smithwick invited Lyman to preach and defended him in front of the crowd that came, "I move we utilize them against the Indians," he stated. The very descriptive article continues with their move near Fredericksburg, to Zodiac; the flood that cost them their mill stones, the miracle of finding the mill stones and their move to Burnet. **One photo of an adult gravestone from a cemetery near Burnet** (where 14 people of the colony are buried) is shown.

***Gibbs, Alta Holland. "The Mormons in Burnet County." *Edwards Plateau Historian* [Menard, TX] 5 (1969 - 1973): 54-57.

An excellent article and fairly factual in its history – it traces the ownership of the property and gives its history to current times (1970).

Harby, Lee C. "The City of a Prince: A Romantic Chapter in Texas History." *Magazine of American History* 20 (November 1888): 345-367.

The beginning history of German emigration to Texas.
http://genealogytrails.com/tex/hillcountry/comal/city_of_the_prince.html

Heilman, Mollie. "The Mormons Come to Texas." *The Texas Pioneer* (October 1931): 9-.

A small article about the Lyman Wight colony and their history in Texas.

***Hunter, J. Marvin. "**Elder Lyman Wight Brings his Colony to Bandera**," in *100 Years in Bandera, 1853-1953*. Bandera, Texas, Bandera Bulletin, 1953.

Hunter's history of Bandera and the Lyman Wight colony.

Hunter, J. Marvin. "The Founding of Bandera." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 3 (July 1926):40-44. https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-03-no-10-july-1926 (An Excerpt only)

Hunter, J. Marvin. "Some Bandera County History." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 5 (April 1928):288-291.

Wight's colony receives only a small paragraph of coverage.
https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-05-no-07-april-1928 (An

Excerpt only)

Johnson, Melvin C. “Bishop George Miller : A Latter Day High Priest and Prince on the High Plains.” *The John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 34, no. 1 (2014): 84-106.

This article gives an account of Bishop George Miller and significant events in his life that occurred as the Mormons began their exodus out of Missouri and Nauvoo. These include interactions with Native Americans, leaving the trek west to instead settle in Texas, how he became the preacher for his followers, joining and later leaving the Wight community, and settling with the Strangites.

Johnson, Melvin C. ""So We Built a Good Little Temple to Worship In": Mormonism on the Pedernales—Texas, 1847-1851." *The John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 22 (2002): 89-98.

Now chapter 8 in the author’s book— *Polygamy on the Pedernales*.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1042&context=usupress_pubs

Johnson, Melvin C. “The Mormon Cowboys of Bandera County and the Texas Hill Country.” *West Texas Historical Association Yearbook* 80 (2004): 159-177.

Now chapter 10 in the author’s book— *Polygamy on the Pedernales*.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1042&context=usupress_pubs

Jordan, Gilbert J. "W. Steinert's View of Texas in 1849." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* Vol. 80 no. 1 (July 1976): 57-78; 80 no. 2 (October 1976): 177-200; Vol. 80, No. 3 (January 1977): 283-301; 80 no. 4 (April 1977): 399-416; 81 no. 1 (July 1977): 45-72. Accessed July 8, 2021.

This is a five-part series; the Lyman Wight colony is mentioned specifically on pages 197-199 in part two. W. Steinert was one of a group of Germans who came to America in 1849 to exam first-hand the conditions of the new state of Texas (as well as other areas of the country) for opportunities in employment and prospects for settlement. During his entire trip he kept a diary and made extensive notes on his experiences and observations. This five-part series is a day-to-day translation of Steinert's diary which he published in Berlin in 1850.

Klingelhoefer, Robert. "Zodiac: Gillespie's Mormon Colony." *Edwards Plateau Historian* [Menard, TX] 1 (1965): 13-14.

A short article informing us about the Wight colony establishing Zodiac in 1847, and the help that they were to the settlers of new town of Fredericksburg (established in 1846). **The author states that the "near starving German colonists" of Fredericksburg were taught by the Mormons how and what to plant.**

Knopp, Fred P. "Thirteen Years of Mormon Colonization in Texas." *The Junior Historian* 30 (December 1969): 28-31.

An overview of the Wight colony written by a high school student.

Landon, Michael N. “We Navigated by Pure Understanding: Bishop George T. Sevey’s Account of the 1912 Exodus from Mexico,” *BYU Studies Quarterly* 43, no.

2 (April 2004): 63-101.

During the Mexican Revolution of the 1910s, anti-American sentiment made the situation of the European-American Saints in the Mexican colonies precarious. In 1912, thousands of Anglo-Mormon colonists made the decision to leave their homes for the safety of the United States. Many of them had lived in Mexico for almost thirty years—they fled to El Paso. https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/we-navigated-by-pure-understanding-bishop-george-t-seveys-account-of-the-1912-exodus-from-mexico/

Lewis, H. B. "History of the Mormon Colony." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 13 (July 1936): 482-483.

A reprint of an article taken from the Harper Herald published at Harper, Gillespie County, Texas.
https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-13-no-10-july-1936 (An Excerpt only)

Lincecum, Hugh M. "The Mormon's First and Last Drive." *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 24 (May 1947): 397-399.

This short article relates the **1873 account** of Salt Lake City **Mormons buying and driving 30,000 Texas Longhorns** from Bell County, Texas.
https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-24-no-08-may-1947 (An Excerpt only)

Maverick, Maury Jr. "Mormons in Texas." *True West* 10 (March-April 1963): 34-35, 44.

A good two-page article giving the complete history of the Wight colony in Texas – no new information is added but the article reads well.

McClain, W. Blair. "The Lyman Wight Colony in Texas." *The Saints' Herald* [Independence, MO] (February 6, 1961): 10-12.

A highly informative and lengthy article from the RLDS Church newspaper about the Wight colony using Hunter's booklet and Noah Smithwick's book for their point of reference.

Mills, H. W. "De Tal Palo Tal Astilla." *Annual Publications--the Historical Society of Southern California* 10 (1917): 86-174.

The translated title means, "a chip off the old block." The paper was read before the Historical Society of Southern California and contains fragmentary notes on the life histories of the two George Millers, father and son. The "notes" come from a log ("The Life of George Miller, Written by Himself") and letters kept by the elder (Bishop) **George Miller** from 1841 to 1856. The importance of Miller to Wight and his colony are twofold: 1) Miller and Wight served together in the Wisconsin Lumbering operation, on behalf of the Church at Nauvoo, and 2) he visited Wight twice while Wight was in Texas.
This same article was also printed under the title "A Mormon Bishop and His Son: Fragments of a Diary Kept by G. Miller, Sr., Bishop in the Mormon Church, and Some Records of Incidents in the Life of George Miller, Jr., Hunter and Pathfinder," Edited by H. W. Mills, published in London, n.d., 91pp.
A light reading ecclesiastical history of the senior Miller may be found in the article by Richard E. Bennett entitled, "`A Samaritan had Passed by' George Miller--Mormon Bishop, Trailblazer, and Brigham Young Antagonist," published in the *Illinois Historical Journal* 82

(Spring 1989): 2-16.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/george-miller

"The Mormon Colonization of Bandera." *The Dude Wrangler* [Bandera, TX] 5 (April 1953): 1-2.
A short article that **names some of the early families of the city of Bandera that settled there after the colony's break up in 1858**.

Mulder, William. "Mormonism's Gathering: An American Doctrine with a Difference." *Church History* 23 (1954): 248-264.
Speaks of the LDS directive to gather to Zion – until 1952, the Church always gathered to its home base, which at one point was Missouri, then Illinois, then finally Salt Lake City. Now the Church asks its members to stay at home and strengthen the stakes of Zion.

"Muster Roll of Captain B. Mitchell, Bandera County, District NO. 3, Texas State Troops, for the Month of February 1864." *The Bandera County Historian* [Pipe Creek, TX] 15 (Spring 1993): 2.
A one-page article that lists the names of those men enlisted in the Texas State Troops from Bandera County. Among those listed are E. A. **Chipman**, E. P. **Chipman**, Geo. Hay, Alexander **Hay**, and L. L. **Wight**.

***Park, Benjamin E. "**Joseph Smith's Kingdom of God: The Council of Fifty and the Mormon Challenge to American Democratic Politics**." *Church History* 87, no. 4 (December 2018): 1029–1055.
Written by a non-Mormon he shares his thoughts on the purpose and principles of the Council of Fifty as it blended democratic principles with theocratic rule. More than a significant moment in the development of America's largest home-grown religion, however, Joseph Smith's controversial organization and the ideals it represented hint at broader anxieties over the nation's cultural disunity and democratic excesses in the wake of disestablishment.

Payne, Millard. "A Visit to Mormon Mill." *The Saints' Herald* [Independence, MO] (April 7, 1958): 12-14.
An excellent and informative three-page article along with **four photos** of the sites of the Lyman Wight colony, written by the RLDS (now the Community of Christ) Church in this their weekly official newspaper.
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100272.pdf

"Petition of Various Persons for the Creation of a new County, Nov. 21, 1855." *The Bandera County Historian* [Pipe Creek, TX] 14 (Spring 1992): 1-3; also located at the Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin.
Reproduces the petition (with signatures) to the Senate and House of Texas for the creation of Bandera County--includes many signatures from the Lyman Wight colony.

Pratt, James. "Considerant and Texas Politics." In *Sabotaged: Dreams of Utopia in Texas*, 194-213. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2020. Accessed March 22,

2021. doi:10.2307/j.ctvw1d7pb.24.

Lyman Wight tried to live the communal lifestyle in Texas (as it was taught to the Saints in both Kirkland, OH, and Missouri, called the United Order or the Law of Consecration) but it eventual failed – probably due to his inability to balance the colony's budget and pay their bills. They were always working and making money, but they were also always in debt. For a broader discussion of this Mormon topic see: Arrington, Leonard J. "Early Mormon Communitarianism: The Law of Consecration and Stewardship," *Western Humanities Review* 7 (1953): 341-69. [May also be found in Mormonism and American Culture. eds., Marvin S. Hill and James B. Allen, New York: Harper and Row, 1972, 37-58], also see: Cook, Lyndon W. *Joseph Smith and the Law of Consecration*. Provo, UT: Grandin Book Co., 1985.

Quinn, D. Michael. "**The Mormon Succession Crisis of 1844**." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 16, no. 2 (Winter 1976): 187-233.

Quinn devotes two pages to Lyman Wight which is interesting since Wight never claimed succession rights to any leadership position. Quinn labels Wight with "an attitude of ecclesiastical solipsism." Which, according to the author "made the succession question irrelevant" to Wight. This is also a fascinating assumption since 1) Wight always maintained that he witnessed Joseph Smith ordain his son to his office and calling (at Liberty Jail) and 2) Wight died on his way back to Jackson County, Missouri to join the beginnings of the movement that began the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (now the Community of Christ).
https://byustudies.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/16.2QuinnMormon.pdf

Schmidt, Charles Frank. "Viktor Friederich Bracht, a Texas Pioneer." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 35 (April 1932): 279-289).

This article is written by the translator of Bracht's book, *Texas in 1848*. Within the article the Wight colony is briefly mentioned on page 283.

Searle, Don L. "**Odomville**: Its Citizens are Family, Its Boundary is Love." *The Ensign* [Salt Lake City] 15 (February 1985): 44-48.

An informal and favorable article about **the settlement of Odomville** and its first settler Pleasant Odom--a Mormon convert from Tyler County, Texas, in 1886. The article discusses his descendants that still live in the original settlement of Odomville and are still active Latter-day Saints.
https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1985/02/odomville-its-citizens-are-family-its-boundary-is-love?lang=eng

Stevenson, Edward. "Journal (1855)." *Treasures of Pioneer History*. 5 (1956): 37-45.

Account of Seth M. Blair's Company of Saints who left Milam County, Texas, for Utah, March 1855. Has a list of the members of the company, discusses the thirty deaths before arriving Salt Lake Valley mostly from cholera. Joined by Edward Stevenson who was sent to replace Blair because of ill health. The clerk for the company noted that Blair did not record many events because he himself was sick. Describes the trip across plains, has an inventory of possessions of some of those who died in route, company arrived 11 September 1855.

The Story of Fredericksburg. Compiled and edited by Walter F. Edwards. Published by the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, 1969. (Pamphlet)

Pages 21-22 contain an unstudied summary of the Zodiac settlement near the then "new" colony of Fredericksburg. Along with the synopsis is a **nice drawing of the layout of the Zodiac settlement, river and highway**.

Stover, Philip R. "The Exodus of 1912: A Huddle of Pros and Cons—Mormons Twice Dispossessed." *Journal of Mormon History* 44, no. 3 (2018): 45-69. Accessed March 22, 2021. doi:10.5406/jmormhist.44.3.0045.

During the Mexican Revolution of the 1910s, anti-American sentiment made the situation of the European-American Saints in the Mexican colonies precarious. In 1912, 4,500 Anglo-Mormon colonists made the decision to leave their homes for the safety of the United States. Many of them had lived in Mexico for almost thirty years—they fled to El Paso, where many of them stayed.

***Taylor, T. U. **"Lyman Wight and the Mormons in Texas."** *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX] 18 (June 1941): 385-388.

A very informal article that does a respectable job of **physically describing the various settlements** of the colony. **It also lists Wight's children, and epochs in the life of Lyman Wight.**
https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-18-no-09-june-1941 (An Excerpt only)

"This is Texas." *Texas Parade* 35 (February 1973): 10.

Contains a small paragraph subtitled "It Takes all Kinds." The entry relates that Austin's first city jail was built by Mormons--Lyman Wight's colony.

Van Wagenen, Michael Scott. Lyman Wight and the Texas Option of 1844: A Forgotten Mormon Alternative," in *Scattering of the Saints: Schism within Mormonism*, eds. Newell G. Bringhurst and John C. Hamer, Independence, MO: John Whitmer Books, 2007, 78-91.

This chapter gives a brief overview of Lyman Wight and the one hundred and fifty Mormons who left the main body of the Church for a new home in the Texas Republic.

Van Wagenen, Michael Scott. "Sam Houston and the Utah War." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 1 (2008): 65-78. Accessed March 22, 2021. http://www.jstor.org/stable/45063115.

An interesting article about how Senator Sam Houston helped stop the US government from prolonging their attack on Utah – and defended the LDS Church and its people.

Walker, Don D. "Longhorns Come to Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 30, no. 2 (Spring 1962): 134-147.

Discusses the Utah cattle industry and its beginnings and the many herds brought from Texas to Utah through the years.

Villanueva, Nicholas, Jr. "Expatriates, Exiles, and Refugees: Social Order in the

Texas-Mexico Borderland Prior to the Mexican Revolution," in *The Lynching of Mexicans in the Texas Borderlands*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2017, 13-51.

This chapter discusses the history of the Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882 and the Mormon colonies that formed in Mexico.

Watt, Ronald G. "A Dialogue Between Wilford Woodruff and Lyman Wight." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 17, no. 1 (1976): 108-113.

Text of letters between the two apostles – which Wight turned into a complaint session between him and Brigham Young – the author would have done the readers a service if he would have presented the text of the return letter where Wight gave an accounting of his history since he left Nauvoo (which you can get from his privately printed address: Wight, Lyman. An Address by Way of an Abridged Account and Journal of My Life from February 1844 up to April 1848.)
https://byustudies.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/17.1WattDialogue.pdf
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100701.pdf

Wicks, Robert S., and Fred R. Foister. "Thy Kingdom Come . . . in Texas." In *Junius And Joseph: Presidential Politics and the Assassination of the First Mormon Prophet*, 93-110. Logan, Utah: University Press of Colorado, 2005. Accessed April 14, 2021. doi:10.2307/j.ctt4cgn0s.13.

Discusses the buffer state, Joseph Smith wanting to annex Texas into the United States, Lyman Wight and George Miller wanting to go to the "table lands" of Texas, the Council of Fifty and Joseph Smith's run for the presidency in 1844.

Wight, John G. "A Man A Colony--and Texas." *Restoration Trail Forum* 7 (August 1981): 1, 6-7; 7 (November 1981) 6, 8; 8 (February 1982): 3, 6.

A mid-size article about the Lyman Wight colony and their history using mainly two resources, the History of the RLDS Church and Hunter's "The Lyman Wight Colony in Texas."

***Wilson, Dave. "Thirteen Years to Zion." *Texas Parade* 27 (October 1966): 44-48. (Reprinted in the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, (February 9, 1967): 11, 13.)

For a newspaper article this is probably the best concise history of the man and colony there is. Informative, factual, historical and rich in local history.

***Winn, Norma B. "The Texas Expedition." in *An Enduring Legacy*, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 8 (1985): 309-44.

While the author herself is not careful or accurate historically when dealing with the Lyman Wight colony, she uses (extensively) the "Recollections of Orange L. Wight," the eldest son of Lyman Wight, which adds so much personality, warmth and humanity to this history, you can feel their hardships, activities and movements. Gives good details about Lyman Wight, the colony and their movements, general LDS history, Bishop George Miller, Preston Thomas, as well as a small biography of the Wight children.

Woods, Fred E. "Finding Refuge in El Paso: Commemorating the July 1912

Mormon Exodus from Mexico." *Mormon Historical Studies* 13 nos. 1-2, (Spring/Fall): 230-237.

A retelling of the author's book, "Finding Refuge in El Paso."
https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Finding-Refuge-in-El-Paso-Commemorating-the-July-1912-Mormon-Exodus-from-Mexico.pdf

Zobell, Albert L. "The Church in Texas." *The Improvement Era* 71 (September 1968): 62-65.

While commenting on the 1968 World's Fair in San Antonio, Zobell recounts the Church's colonizing plans for Texas, as well as the colonizing efforts of the **Wight colony, and of Kelsey, Texas**.
https://archive.org/details/improvementera7109unse

BOOKS:

Adair, A. Garland and E. H. Perry Sr. *Austin and Commodore Perry*. Austin: Texas Heritage Foundation, 1956. 240pp. LC 56-38907 (292 pages, ISBN: 1258345005.)

On page 45, the text states, "in 1849, a colony of Mormons settled at Mt. Bonnell for several months." This could perhaps be a mistaken date for the Wight colony settling in 1846 near Austin. The colony did build the city's first jail.

Andrus, Hyrum L. ***Joseph Smith and World Government. Salt Lake City: Hawkes Publishing, Inc., 1972 [c**1958**]. 127pp. ISBN 0-89036-032-4.

This volume expands and corrects Brodie's information on **the role of Texas** in conjunction with the **Council of Fifty** in Church History. Specifically considered is **the land south of the Nueces River as a buffer state** between Mexico, Texas, and the United States. This buffer state would become a separate republic under the administration of the Council of Fifty. Hansen's volume, *Quest for Empire* expands the theme and study started by Andrus.

Arrington, Leonard J., and Davis Bitton. *The Mormon Experience: a History of the Latter-Day Saints*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois press, 1992.

An excellent general history of the LDS Church.

Autumn Leaves. 42 vols, ed. Marietta Walker. Lamoni, IA and Independence, MO: Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1888-1928.

This was a monthly children's periodical that was published by the RLDS (now Community of Christ) Church. There are three articles about Lyman Wight and the Texas colony: "Memories of Other Days," by Lamoni, volume 5, pages 253-56; "A Pioneer Colony," by Heman C. Smith, volume 8, pages 529-536; and "The Lyman Wight Colony," by Heman C. Smith, volume 38, pages 332-34.
The first article, "Memories," was most likely written by Levi Lamoni Wight (the fifth child of Lyman Wight), the short articles by Smith are a generic narrative retelling of the Wight colony saga.

Baker, T. Lindsay. *Ghost Towns of Texas*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press,

1986. 196pp. ISBN 0-80611-997-7.

Has **photographs** of the State Historical Marker for the **town of Kelsey**, the remains of a Kelsey home, **Mormon Mill**, and the falls on Hamilton Creek.

Bandera County Historical Survey Committee. *Bandera County Marriage Records, 1856-1891*. Compiled by Mrs. Howard Graves, Mrs. Fabian Anderwald and Mrs. Ray Caffall. Bandera, TX: Bandera County Historical Survey Committee, 1979 [c1970]. 30pp. LC 79-311739.

Contains registers of births.

Bandera County History Book Committee. *History of Bandera County*. Dallas: Curtis Media Corp., 1986. 588pp. ISBN 0-88107-058-0.

Barkley, Mary Starr. *A History of Central Texas*. Austin: Austin Printing Company, 1970. 235pp. LC 70-126352.

A nicely written and well-illustrated piece that tells of the **Mormon Mill settlement in Burnet County**, through the use of local history. The colony is mentioned on pages 174-185.

Barkley, Mary Starr. *History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899*. Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1963. 388pp. LC 64-1760.

The colony is mentioned on several pages (116, 223, 269, 291, and 302), new is that “the Mormons are credited with construction, in 1846, of one of Travis County’s oldest roads to the northwest, the one that today is a scenic drive along Bull Creek to the Spicewood Springs Road, and which then led to a mill on Bull Creek used after the Mormon Mill washed away” (p. 266).

Bartlett, John Russell. *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Connected with The United States and Mexican Boundary Commission, during the years 1850, '51, '52, and '53*. 2 vols. Chicago: The Rio Grande Press Inc., 1965 [c1854]. LC 64-16598. (See also: Palala Press, 2015, 726 pages, ISBN: 1340588463.)

This two-volume set is taken from the journals of John Russell Bartlett while he served as commissioner of the United States-Mexican Boundary Survey (1850 to 1853). On pages 58-59 Bartlett describes his travels through the Mormon colony of Zodiac where he and his party of 12 met and requested dinner from Lyman Wight. Bartlett says, "Everywhere around us in this Zodiacal settlement, we saw abundant signs of prosperity. They have a tract of land, which has yielded profitable crops. The well-built houses, perfect fences, and tidy dooryards gave the place a home-like air, such as we had not before seen in Texas. The dinner was a regular old-fashioned New England farmer's meal...."

Bennett, Richard E. *Mormons at the Missouri: Winter Quarters, 1846-1852*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004.

See pages 18, 87, 108-109, 154-156, 158, 226, 237note 35 and 293note 43 for Lyman Wight; also, many pages and discussions on George Miller.

Biesele, Rudolph Leopold. *History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861*. Austin: Press of Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1930. 259pp. LC 30-22745. (See also: Eakin Press; Reprint edition, 2008, 261 pages, ISBN: 1571688579.)

Wight's colony of Zodiac is mentioned on pages 148 and 150. Biesele gives census information and **agriculture production figures** for the colony and its members.

Biggers, Don Hampton. *German Pioneers in Texas: A Brief History of their Hardships, Struggles and Achievements*. Fredericksburg, TX: Fredericksburg Publishing Co., 1983 [c1925]. 230pp. [ISBN 0-89015-385-X] LC 83-81231.

The volume was written in 1925 to clarify the pioneering and settlement accomplishments of the German colonists of Texas. In chapter five (pages 94-96) the Wight colony (when it was located near Fredericksburg) is discussed.

Blythe, Christine Elyse and Christopher James Blythe. *Mormonisms: A Documentary History, 1844-1860*. American Fork, Utah: Greg Kofford Books, 2014.

Mentions the Lyman Wight colony as one of the many splinter groups that occurred after Joseph Smith was murdered in 1844.

Bracht, Viktor. *Texas in 1848*. Translated from the German by Charles Frank Schmidt. San Antonio, TX: Naylor Printing Co., 1931. 223pp. LC 31-10968 (reprinted, Manchaca, TX: German Heritage Society, Dept. of Modern Languages, Southwest Texas State University, 1991. 229pp. ISBN 0-94477-904-2).

Bracht (1819-1886), a store owner in New Braunfels, was a German emigrant to Texas in 1845. After living and traveling in Texas for three years he returned to Germany to visit his family. It was there in 1848 that he authored this book (Texas im Jahre 1848). The purpose of the volume was to give the German people (especially the prospective emigrant) as true a representation of Texas as possible. Unfortunately, Bracht equates Mormonism with Communism on pages 75, 104, and 200.

Brodie, Fawn M. *No Man Knows My History: The Life of Joseph Smith the Mormon Prophet*. 2nd rev. & enl. ed., NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1971 [c**1945**]. 521pp. ISBN 0-39446-967-4.

This is possibly **the first work that discusses the role of the land south of the Nueces River as a buffer state between Mexico, Texas, and the United States** (see **pages 359-362**: Lucien Woodworth - 481, 487; Lyman Wight – 111, 153, 157, 162, 211, 213, 222, 231-232, 239-240 and 398). This **buffer state** would become a separate republic under the administration of the Mormon Church. See Andrus' volume, *Joseph Smith and World Government* that expands on Brodie's point and corrects some of her misconceptions.

Brune, Gunnar. *Springs of Texas* 2 vols. Fort Worth, TX; Branch-Smith, Inc., 1981. ISBN 0-96047-660-1.

In volume one page 433 is listed Mormon Springs (near Austin) "a group of about 25 springs just beneath the surface of Lake Austin, on the east shore 2.4 kilometers from the dam. They flowed 42 lps in 1904 and 31 in 1973. They were used by a Mormon settlement in 1846-47 to power a gristmill."

Burnet County Historical Commission & Burnet County Heritage Society. *Burnet County Cemetery Records 1852-1982*. Burnet, TX: Burnet County Historical Commission, 1988. OCLC 18928373.

> This volume includes the **cemetery records** of **Mormon Mill Cemetery** that is located just north of Marble Falls. The entry includes the location of the cemetery, a brief description of the site and **a listing of all identifiable markers**.

Cheville, Roy. *They Made a Difference*. Independence, MO: Herald House Publishing, 1970. 350pp. LC 78-101568.

> A RLDS/CoC publication about various people who "made a difference" in the RLDS tradition. The volume's chapter on the life of Lyman Wight and his mission to Texas (pages 150-160) is historically inaccurate and poorly researched.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *Elder's Journal of the Southern States Mission, Volume 1*. 2015, Palala Press, 194 pages, ISBN: 1342421698 [Also: 2012, Nabu Press, 240 pages, ISBN: 1248489179]; Volume 2, 2018, Forgotten Books, 394 pages, ISBN: 0266680399 [Also: 2015, Palala Press, 400 pages, ISBN: 1341264963]; Volume 3, 2017, Forgotten Books, 478 pages, ISBN: 0259807168 [Also: 2015, Palala Press, 482 pages, ISBN: 1341290727]; Volume 4, 2011, Nabu Press, 476 pages, ISBN: 1246168944.

Davis, Inez Smith. *The Story of the Church*. 4th ed. rev. Independence, MO: Herald House Publishing, 1948 [c1934]. 645pp. LC 48-2868.

> This is a one volume history of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS now the Community of Christ) Church. There are 12 editions of this now out-of-print work, the Wight colony is discussed in chapter 39.
> http://www.centerplace.org/history/misc/soc/soc39.htm

***Debo, Darrell. *Burnet County History: A Pioneer History 1847 - 1979.* 2 vols. Burnet, TX: Eakin Press (for the Burnet County Historical Commission), 1979. ISBN 0-89015-229-2.

> Volume one contains the pioneer history of Burnet County from 1847-1979, with volume two containing local family histories. (See volume one, pages 8, 23-30, 38, 41, 47-48, and 124 for information on the **Wight colony and Mormon Mill**; and volume two, pages 334-5 for the history of the Wight family).

Denson, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Billy Burnes and Mrs. Howard Graves. *Bandera County Cemetery Records*. Bandera, TX: Bandera County Historical Survey Committee, 1978 [c1970]. 143pp. LC 78-302017.

> A non-alphabetical listing of deceased persons by cemetery. Information includes name, birth date (if known) and a death date. The text is 141 pages in length with a two-page index of surnames.

Far West Record: Minutes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1844. Ed. Donald Q. Cannon and Lyndon W. Cook. Salt Lake City: Deseret

Book Co., 1983. 318pp. 0-87747-901-1.

The Far West Record is an early Church minute book that contains proceedings from many general Church meetings and high council minutes from 1830-1839. The complete, unedited text of the record, as it appears in the original, is presented in this volume. Important to researchers of Lyman Wight are pages 195-196 where (during a high council meeting) Wight is charged with and admits to public intoxication.

Fischer, Ernest G. *Marxists and Utopias in Texas*. Burnet, TX: Eakin Press, 1980. 246pp. ISBN 0-89015-233-0.

Chapter five of the volume (pages 89-121) considers the Lyman Wight colony because of their communalistic order. Also, some background is given to Wight's involvement with earlier common-stock communities. **An artist's conception of the community's mill at Hamilton Creek is on page 112.**

Flanders, Robert Bruce. *Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965. 364pp. LC 65-19110.

Flanders, who writes from a RLDS (now Community of Christ) background, has authored the best single volume on this important period of LDS History. The Nauvoo era (1839-1846) represents a significant period of time where profound doctrinal contributions (revelations) were disseminated by Joseph Smith to members of the Church. Nauvoo also became the center gathering place for all Saints from New York to Ohio (including those fleeing from the Missouri persecutions), as well as the first residence to LDS converts from England. The Nauvoo era also marks both the death of Joseph Smith (1844), and the splintering of the movement he began just 14 years earlier. It was during this time period that the Wisconsin "pineries" community headed for Texas under the leadership of the Mormon Apostle, Lyman Wight. **Texas as a Mormon gathering place and the Wight colony** are discussed on pages 290-298 and 318-321.

Frontier Times Museum. *Bandera County: Images of America*. Arcadia Publishing; Illustrated edition, 2010, 128 pages, ISBN: 0738585548.

This is an excellent and fun picture book documenting the history of Bandera county and its settlers, pioneers, immigrants, peoples and their history – highly recommended and particularly useful. A photo of **George Hay** and family are on page 13, page 42 has a photo of **Abram Moncyr**, page 52 has a photo of the dam that created the lake now covering **Mountain Valley** and page 105 has a photo of the **mill stone** that belonged to the Lyman Wight colony now located in a wall of the Frontier Times Museum.

Gateway to Texas: The History of Orange and Orange County. Ed. Howard C. Williams. Beaumont, TX: The Heritage House Museum of Orange, 1986. 261pp.

Orange County is the area where the **Williamson settlement** was founded in 1901 and later grew into a stake after World War II (see page 194).

Gillespie County Historical Society. *Pioneers in God's Hills: Stories & biographies of the Brave Men & Courageous Women who Sought Homes & Peace ... Among the Hills of Fredericksburg & Gillespie County*. Higginson Book Company, 2000, ISBN: 0740418815. [Also see: Eakin Press, 2000, 305 pages, ISBN: 1571684638; also see: Austin, TX: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1960. OCLC 1118716.]

This two-volume set of biographies that also includes a brief history of the town and

country of Fredericksburg, Texas, includes many **photographs** and original pen and ink sketches, a ship list of German immigrants, a list of town lot recipients compiled in 1847, and the U. S. Census of 1850 for Gillespie County. Lyman Wight and the settlement of Zodiac are mentioned on pages 233-34 of volume one, along with a partial **census list** on page 286.

Goeth, Ottilie Fuchs. *Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother: Was Grossmutter Erzaehlt, 1805-1915*. Translation, research and additions by Irma Goeth Guenther. Austin: Eakin Press, 1982. 260pp. ISBN 0-89015-341-8.

This volume contains the reminiscences of Goeth as she chronicles her life beginning as a young girl in Germany, emigrating with her family to Texas in 1845, and records her pioneering experiences through the early 1900's. Pages 58-60 contain an inaccurate recollection of Lyman Wight's colony when it resided near Hamilton Creek. **More important is the translator's inclusion of an actual photograph of the mill built by the Wight colony**. (UT Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio 068-0791. Loaned by Mrs. Ernest A. Guenther.)

Grayson County Frontier Village. *The History of Grayson County Texas*. 2 vols. Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Publishing Co., 1979.

On page 31 of volume one, Morris L. Britton's column, "Mormon's Through Grayson County" mentions the Wight group spending the winter of 1845-46 in the abandoned Ft. Johnson near Georgetown. He also states that the members of this group "apparently lived in both Grayson and Bryan (Okla.) Counties. One group of craftsmen built an exceptional two-story house for James Tyson of the Chickasaw Nation. It also seems likely that these craftsmen contributed to the construction of Glen Eden."

Grow, Matthew J., Ronald K. Esplin, Mark Ashurst-McGee, Gerrit John Dirkmaat, and Jeffrey D. Mahas, eds. ***Council of Fifty Minutes, March 1844-January 1846. The Joseph Smith Papers Project. Salt Lake City, UT: The Church Historian's Press, 2016, 788 pages, ISBN: 1629722421.

On 11 March 1844 in Nauvoo, Illinois, Joseph Smith organized a council that he and his closest associates saw as the beginning of the government of the literal “Kingdom of God” on earth. It was the consideration of the Texas settlement that prompted Joseph Smith to organize the Council – and it was the Council’s first business to send an emissary to Sam Houston to negotiate a “treaty” for land south of the Nueces River as a buffer state between Mexico, Texas, and the United States. This buffer state would become a separate republic under the administration of the Council. The council, known both as the “Council of the Kingdom of God” and the “Council of Fifty” (it had 53 members), operated under Smith's leadership until his murder less than four months later. Following Smith's death in June 1844, the council met in Nauvoo under Brigham Young's leadership from February 1845 to January 1846. The volume contains the minutes of Council’s meetings, as well as **a complete list of all council members** from 1844-1846; a Church chronology from January 1844-Febrary 1846; and a biographical dictionary of most everyone listed in the volume. The minutes of the council's meetings, kept primarily by William Clayton, have never been publicly available, or published before this volume of the Joseph Smith Papers Project.

Grow, Matthew J., and R. Eric Smith, eds., ***The Council of Fifty: *What the*

Records Reveal about Mormon History. Provo, UT: RSC BYU, Deseret Book, 2017.

One year after the Council of Fifty minutes were published, comes this anthology with 15 different chapters and authors to fit the minutes into their proper place in Mormon history – written from an LDS perspective.
https://rsc.byu.edu/book/council-fifty

***Hansen, Klaus J. ***Quest for Empire: The Political Kingdom of God and the Council of Fifty in Mormon History*.** East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, **1967**. 237pp. LC 66-26957.

A well-documented volume that discusses a little-known facet of Mormon History--the Council of Fifty. The importance of this book is twofold: 1) it reintroduces the significance of Millennialism to Latter-day Saint doctrine, and 2) it reintroduces this secular ruling body (the **Council of Fifty**) that had heretofore been almost completely ignored in Mormon History and writings. It was by the recommendation of this Council that an emissary (Lucien Woodworth) was sent to "treaty" with Houston. **This was the first step in creating a "buffer state" between the United States, Mexico, and Texas**. Texas is mentioned throughout the text, but more particularly on pages 82-89. Within those pages are a description of the events that nearly made South and West Texas a "Mormon Republic." The author also wrote a recapitulation of the above volume in his article "Joseph Smith and the Political Kingdom of God," published in *The American West* 5 (September **1968**): 20-24, 63.

For a political discussion of "**Theodemocracy**," "the Kingdom of God," the **Council of Fifty** and Mormon thought, consult the below articles (which are in chronological order):

Clark, James R., "**The Kingdom of God, the Council of Fifty, and the State of Deseret**," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 26 (April **1958**): 131–50.
https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/uhq_volume26_1958_number2/s/97000

Hansen, Klaus J., "**The Kingdom of God as a Cause for Mormon-Gentile Conflict**," *BYU Studies Quarterly* 2 (Spring-Summer **1960**): 241–60.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/the-political-kingdom-of-god-as-a-cause-for-mormon-gentile-conflict/

Quinn, D. Michael **"The Council of Fifty and its Members, 1844-1945**," *BYU Studies Quarterly* 20, no. 2 (Winter **1980**): 163-197, a must for understanding the Council.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20.2QuinnCouncil-5aad5e48-0cd6-4c44-b382-e68dd5bbbac8.pdf

Ehat, Andrew F. **"'It Seems Like Heaven Began on Earth': Joseph Smith and the Constitution of the Kingdom of God**." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 20, no. 3 (**1980**): 253-280.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20.2QuinnCouncil-5aad5e48-0cd6-4c44-b382-e68dd5bbbac8.pdf

Hill, Marvin S. ***Refuge: The Mormon Flight from American Pluralism***. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, **1989**.
http://signaturebookslibrary.org/quest-for-refuge/
https://dzgvur2szwepmr.azureedge.net/d9c8316b500aaca1f44688575a1f65.pdf

Mason, Patrick Q. "**God and the People: Theodemocracy in Nineteenth-Century Mormonism**." *Journal of Church and State*, 53, no.3 (Summer **2011**): 349-75.
https://academic.oup.com/jcs/article/53/3/349/1022651
https://rsc.byu.edu/council-fifty/god-people-reconsidered (Updated article—second thoughts)

Palmer, Grant H. "**Did Joseph Smith Commit Treason in His Quest for Political Empire in 1844**?" *The John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 32, no. 2 (**2012**): 52-58. Accessed May 25, 2021. http://www.jstor.org/stable/43201314.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16noj_RBgUPc1pgFuGzp7sL8Gn3TvXNKr
Blythe, Christopher James, "**The Church and the Kingdom of God: Ecclesiastical Interpretations of the Council of Fifty**," *Journal of Mormon History*, 43, no. 2 (**2017**): 100-130.
This is the first article to be published about the "Kingdom of God" after the minutes of the Council of Fifty were published – it shows that the Council of Fifty was the culmination of the Latter-day Saints' **millenarian** expectations and **political theory**. In particular, the Saints were frustrated with the federal government's refusal to address their pleas for redress from the persecution they faced from the state of Missouri. Smith criticized human governments as corrupt and impermanent and offered "**theodemocracy**" as a radical alternative to the political democracy of the United States.
Park, Benjamin E. "**Joseph Smith's Kingdom of God: The Council of Fifty and the Mormon Challenge to American Democratic Politics**." *Church History* 87, no. 4 (December **201**8): 1029–1055.
Park, Benjamin E. "**The Danite Constitution and Theories of Democratic Justice in Frontier America**." *BYU Studies Quarterly* 60, no. 1 (**2021**): 43-64.

Herman, Daniel J. *Hell on the Range: A Story of Honor, Conscience, and the American West*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.
"In this lively account of Arizona's Rim Country War of the 1880s--what others have called 'The Pleasant Valley War'--historian Daniel Justin Herman explores a web of conflict involving **Mormons, Texas cowboys, New Mexican sheepherders, Jewish merchants, and mixed-blood ranchers**. Their story offers a fresh perspective on Western violence, Western identity, and American cultural history. At the heart of Arizona's range war, argues Herman, was a conflict between cowboys' code of honor and Mormons' code of conscience. [Publisher's abstract]

Hogan, William Ransom. *The Texas Republic: A Social and Economic History*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946. 338pp. LC 46-8214.
On page 202 the Wight colony (while near the Austin area) receives a trivial remark about gaining a "victory over the first Baptist minister in Texas." Apparently, Rev. Joseph L. Bays' wife and oldest son left him and joined with Wight and his colony. This is also mentioned on page 38 in Dan Ferguson's article, "Forerunners of Baylor," published in *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 49 (July 1945) 36-50.

Howard, Robert West. *The Race West; Boom Town to Ghost Town*. NY: Signet Books, 1962. 160pp. LC 62-52065.
On pages 32-34 Howard discusses the Wight colony. No added information on the colony.

Hunter, John Marvin. *The Lyman Wight Colony in Texas: Came to Bandera in 1854*. Bandera, TX: The Bandera Bulletin for Frontier Times Museum, n.d. 37pp. OCLC 2707857.
A museum tract compiled by J. Marvin Hunter, printed by the Bandera Bulletin for the Frontier Times Museum in Bandera, Texas.
http://www.frontiertimesmuseum.org/historymission.html
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth46821/m1/5/

***Hunter, John Marvin. ***Pioneer History of Bandera County**: Seventy-five*

Years of Intrepid History. Bandera, TX: J. M. Hunter, Jr., 1970 [c1922]. 287pp. LC 77-373155.

Hunter has published many other histories of Bandera County, but this title is the most comprehensive. The volume contains 114 biographical sketches that originated from interviews conducted by Hunter. The period covered is 1852 to 1892. Mormons are mentioned irregularly throughout the text (see especially pages 16, 111-116, 140, and 249).
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth27720/m1/1/

Jackson, A. T. *Mills of Yesteryear*. El Paso, TX: Texas Western Press, 1971. 103pp. ISBN 0-87404-028-0.

Chapter five (pages 40-49) considers the Lyman Wight colony and their millers, no photos of the mill. (Also found in an article by Jackson "Remember the Old Water Mills?," reprinted in Frontier Times 7 (March 1930) 239-245; first published in *Farm and Ranch*); [An excellent newspaper article on the book and author maybe found in: "Bout with TB Spurred Mill Interest," *Waco News-Tribune*, October 21, 1971, 6B.
https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-07-no-06-march-1930 (An Excerpt only)

Jenson, Andrew. Church Chronology: A Record of Important Events. 2nd ed., Salt Lake City:
Deseret News, 1914 [c1899]. 259pp., 32pp., 204pp. ISBN 0-84903-139-7.

This record lists notable events from 1805 to 1913 that relate to the history of the Church. Useful for research, the set contains two supplements and an index.
https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/collection/BYUIBooks/id/1067/
https://archive.org/details/churchchronology00jensrich

Jenson, Andrew. *Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Publishing Co., 1941. 976pp. LC 41-8948.

This volume contains detailed information drawn from the manuscript histories of wards, branches, stakes, missions, and mission conferences that are on file in the LDS Church Archives from 1830 to 1930. It also gives an alphabetical listing and encyclopedic treatment of geographic units within the Church and of institutions that are a part of Mormon, Utah, and Western history. Texas is considered on pages 869-870, and the Wightites (Wight's colony) are listed on pages 950-951.
https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/collection/BYUIBooks/id/2694/
https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.178083/2015.178083.Encyclopedic-History-Of-The-Church-Of-Jesus-Christ-Of-Latter-Day-Saints?view=theater

Jenson, Andrew. *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*.
4 vols. Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1901, 1914, 1920, 1936. LC 26-1583 (reprinted in 1971 by Western Epics, 254 South Main, Salt Lake City, UT., OCLC 928985).

These four volumes chronologically encompass the period 1800 to 1930 and contain 15,000 biographical sketches in essay form. Considered a standard text in this field, inspirational in style. (See volume one, pages 93-96, for Lyman Wight.)
https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi02jens
https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/search/collection/BYUIBooks/searchterm/Latter-Day%20Saint%20Biographical%20Encyclopedia/field/all/mode/all/

***Johnson, Melvin C. ***Polygamy on the Pedernales: Lyman Wight's Mormon Villages in Antebellum Texas*.** Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2006. 231pp. ISBN: 0874216281.

This is the only book length treatment on this subject-- deals with the Wight group, their travels, mill building and life in Texas – unfortunately, the author does not give the Wisconsin Pineries (1841-1845) their proper due in that this is where his colony was formed and had history together before the trek to Texas; he also missed Michael Scott Van Wagenen's book.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1042&context=usupress_pubs
http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.471.2577&rep=rep1&type=pdf

***Journal of History*. 18 vols.** Lamoni, IA: Board of Publication of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1908-1925. LC 10-21977.

Published quarterly from 1908-1925, **volume two** includes a history of "Lyman Wight," pages 787-791, as well as an article on the "Succession in the Presidency," on pages 3-14, along with an article on "George Miller", from page 225-232; **volume nine** contains the "**Autobiography of Levi Lamoni Wight**," pages 258-288, 422-445; **volume ten** has an article by Heman C. Smith on the "Pioneer Trails Across Iowa," pages 47-59, and the "Autobiography of Elder Romanan Wight," (which is really a short biography written by his daughter-in-law, Mable Wight) pages 479-80, and 488).
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100002.pdf
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100009.pdf
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100010.pdf

King, Dick. *Ghost Towns of Texas*. San Antonio, TX: Naylor Co., 1953. 140pp. LC 53-11441.

Within this small publication the author considers **the Mormon settlements of Zodiac and Kelsey**. Unfortunately, the volume contains no photographs of these two communities.

King, Irene Marschall. *John O. Meusebach: German Colonizer in Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1967. 192pp., ISBN: 0292736568 (See also: University of Texas Press, 1987, 222 pages, ISBN: 0292740190; Kindle: University of Texas Press, 2014)

Pages 108, 125 and 152 discuss the Lyman Wight colonists as millers and farmers in their relationship to the German immigrants living in Fredericksburg. **Meusebach welcomed the Mormons and their "technical skill in the building and operation of a sawmill, as well as of a gristmill**, [it] was a useful addition to this pioneer region."

Kuehne, Reverend Cyril Matthew. *Ripples from Medina Lake*. San Antonio: Naylor Co., 1966. 83pp. LC 66-17876.

This volume illustrates the construction of the **Medina dam which now covers the Wight settlement of Mountain Valley**--now popularly referred to as "Mormon Camp." With dozens of photographs, gives a very brief history of the areas and counties surrounding the lake – Lyman Wight and colony are mentioned on pages 11-13.

Loyd, Doyal T. *A History of Upshur County, Texas*. Gilmer, TX: Gilmer Mirror, 1966. 136pp. LC 66-28983.

A well-illustrated, but non-documented publication about the history of Upshur County. A few paragraphs on the history of the Mormon colony of **Kelsey** may be found on pages 34-5, and 94.

Lucas, Mattie Davis, and Mita Holsapple Hall. *A History of Grayson County, Texas*. Sherman, TX: Scruggs Printing Co., 1936. 209pp. OCLC 6703289.

On page 61 of the text, Lyman Wight's colony is mentioned as arriving at Preston in November of 1845. **Spending the winter at "old Fort Johnston," and camping "in a beautiful grove near present day Dorchester, which is still called Mormon Grove."** As an addendum to Lucas' work, Graham Landrum and Allan Smith wrote *Grayson County: An Illustrated History of Grayson County, Texas,* Fort Worth, TX: Historical Publishers, 1967 [c1960], 195pp. The text does not mention the Wight colony spending the winter there--but it does correct the misnomer and/or misspelling of what should be "Fort Johnson," which was built by the troops under the command of Col. William G. Cooke, in 1840, for the defense of the military road from Red River to Austin. Some other works have also mistakenly called Wight's winter camp "Georgetown," or "Fort Georgetown." Georgetown was the name of the settlement in the vicinity of Fort Johnson.

McGavin, Elmer Cecil. *The Mormon Pioneers*. Salt Lake City: Stevens & Wallis, 1947. 234pp. LC 49-2009.

This volume contains a very brief mention of the Wight colony on pages 9-11, and 19-20. No added information on the colony.

Miller, George. *Correspondence of **Bishop George Miller** with the Northern Islander, From his First Acquaintance with Mormonism up to Near the Close of his Life. Written by Himself in the Year 1855*. Privately published, Burlington, WI: Wingfield Watson, 1916. 50pp. (Reprinted by the Wingfield Grandchildren, 1977). (Located at the LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department, Salt Lake City; and Library & Archives, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Independence, MO)

A series of letters dated from June 22, 1855 - August 10, 1855....page 40 contains a good description of early **Texas**; pages 41-45 he criticizes **Lyman Wight** and life in his **colony**; and pages 20-21 and 24 discuss the **Texas "treaty" and migration**.
https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015071479573&view=1up&seq=1
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/george-miller
https://www.amazon.com/Correspondence-Northern-islander-acquaintance-Mormonism/dp/B003QTD5WW/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Correspondence+of+Bishop+George+Miller+with+the+Northern+islander&qid=1617543622&sr=8-1

Miller, Lewis B. *Saddles and Lariats: The Largely True Story of the Bar-Circle Outfit, and of Their Attempt to take a big Drove of Longhorns from Texas to California, in the Days When the Gold Fever Raged*. Boston: Dana Estes & Co. Publishers, 1909. 285pp. LC 12-23928.

The volume tells the "largely true" account of three Californians who made a gold strike, came to Texas and bought 2,500 head of cattle to sell in California. Starting on page 12 (12-24, 33-34, 51-57, etc.) **a slave owning Mormon family named Adams'** is introduced

and mentioned throughout the account. According to the story the family originally emigrated from Tennessee and now lived near Waco, close to the Brazos River during the 1840's and 50's. The family was converted to Mormonism by some travelling missionaries (Preston Thomas?) in Texas in 1853 and began their trek to Utah in 1854.

Neighbors, Kenneth F. *Robert Simpson Neighbors and the Texas Frontier, 1836-1859*. Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1975.

Neighbors was the Indian agent during the time of the Wight colony – Wight had many issues with him; the colony lost a lot of livestock to the marauding tribes as well as property and buildings. (I believe this forewarns what the "buffer-state" would have been like)

Penniger, Robert. *Fredericksburg, Texas - the First Fifty Years*. Translated by Charles L. Wisseman. Fredericksburg, TX: Fredericksburg Publishing Co., 1971. 122pp. LC 70-25052.

The volume was originally titled Fest-Ausgabe zum 50-jaehrigen Jubilaeum der Gruendung der Stadt Friedrichsburg and was published in Fredericksburg in 1896. It gives a current historical account of the first fifty years in the German settlement of Fredericksburg--the Wight colony is mentioned on pages 45-46, 83 and 108-109.

Portie, Arlen Williamson. *The Log Church, 1901-1914: **Williamson Settlement**, Orange County, Texas*. Vidor, TX: Vidor Vidorian Press, n.d. n.p.

A privately printed pamphlet that is richly illustrated and written by a descendant of **William Williamson**. The work gives a history of the Williamson family, the settlement and their involvement with the LDS Church.

Quinn, D. Michael. The Mormon Hierarchy: Origins of Power. Salt lake City, UT: Signature Books, 1994.

Much information about the leadership within the Church, the **Council of Fifty** and its members; lots of biographical information about Wight and the Texas negotiations; a short biography of Wight can be found on pages 198-203; and a listing of members of the Council of Fifty from 1844-1845 (appendix 5) can be found on pages 521-531.

Ray, Worth S. *Austin Colony Pioneers: Including History of Bastrop, Fayette, Grimes, Montgomery, and Washington Counties, Texas and their Earliest Settlers*. Privately published by author, 1949. 378pp.

Gives slight mention to Lyman Wight and his colony on pages 320-322.

******The Reminiscences and Civil War Letters of Levi Lamoni Wight: Life in a Mormon Splinter Colony on the Texas Frontier***, ed. Davis Bitton. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1970. 191pp. ISBN 0-87480-060-9.

Levi (1836-1918) was the fifth child of Lyman Wight. The first part of the text was probably written for his children and grandchildren in 1907. The second section of the book contains the letters written by both Levi and his wife Sophia, during the Civil War years. (The original manuscripts and letters that Davis edited may be found at the Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin).

There is an autobiography of Levi contained in the *Journal of History* of the Reorganized

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (vol. 9). This was a solicited biography written in 1902 and 1909, for the benefit of the younger members of the RLDS (now Community of Christ) Church. **The reminiscences add more body and information to his life, times and thoughts than the autobiography**. http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100009.pdf

Roberts, B.H. *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Century I*. 6 vols. Salt Lake City: LDS Church 1930. ISBN 0842504826 [Available ebook, kindle, CD ROM and paperback]

The six-volume Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints originally began as a series of monthly articles written by B.H. Roberts from 1909 to 1915 for the *Americana* magazine. The articles were updated and put into book form for publishing in 1930 in commemoration of the church's Centennial Celebration. The volumes discuss in detail many of the developments and events throughout the first 100 years of Mormon History (1830-1930).
https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Roberts%2C%20B%2E%20H%2E%20%28Brigham%20Henry%29%2C%201857%2D1933

Roemer, Ferdinand Dr. *Texas, with Particular Reference to German Immigration and the Physical Appearance of the Country*. Translated from the German by Oswald Mueller. San Antonio, TX: Standard Printing Co., 1935. 301pp. LC 86-129303.

This volume (which is popularly cited as Roemer's Texas) is based on the observations and experiences of Ferdinand Roemer during his stay in Texas from December 1845 to April 1847. The Wight colony is mentioned on pages 213-14 when (on November 11th, 1846) they called on Herr von Meusebach to ask permission to settle a company of forty-six families on the land grant of the Verein colony. **Gives detail to how the Mormons helped the German's colonists and their influence on their material culture**.

Sanford, Albert Hart and H. J. Hirshheimer. *A History of La Crosse, Wisconsin 1841-1900*. La Crosse, WI: La Crosse County Historical Society, 1951.

Has a brief history of the Mormons at their pinery and their village.

Scarbrough, Clara Stearns. *Land of Good Water, Takachue Pouetsu: A Williamson County, Texas, History*. rev. ed. Georgetown, TX: Williamson County Sun Publishers, 1976 [c1973]. 530pp. LC 73-89552.

Williamson County lies just north of Austin, touches the east line of Burnet County, and is several counties north and east of Bandera County. On page 39, Scarbrough relates that "eighteen Tonkawas trained in leatherwork and saddlemaking were apprenticed to a group of Mormons in central Texas in the mid-nineteenth century and eventually moved with the Mormons to the northwest, where they were absorbed into the population."

Schlitz, Marilyn J. *Reflections on Medina Lake: 1912-1987*. San Antonio: Quadrangle Press, 1987. 183pp. OCLC 17700979.

This volume describes the **Medina Lake which now covers the Wight settlement of Mountain Valley**--now popularly referred to as "Mormon Camp." The colony and its members are mentioned on pages 6-9, 48, and 72. No added information about the colony.

Smith, Joseph and (ed.) Scott H. Faulring. *An American Prophet's Record: the Diaries and Journals of Joseph Smith*. Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 1989.

The editor gives an unexpurgated edition of Joseph Smith's personal diaries and journals from 1832-1844. If you do not feel like waiting-through the huge online set of documents from the Joseph Smith Papers Project, then this one volume diary may appeal to you.

Smith, Joseph, and B. H. Roberts. 1980. *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book Co. ISBN 0875794866.

First published under the title **History of the Church** of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; nicknamed (Documentary History of the Church or **DHC**) is a semi-official history of the early Latter-Day Saint movement during the lifetime of founder Joseph Smith. It is largely composed of Smith's writings and interpretations and editorial comments by Smith's secretaries, scribes, and after Smith's death (1844), historians of the Church. The history was written between 1839 and 1856. Part of it was published in Times and Seasons and other church periodicals, it was later published in its entirety with extensive annotations and edits by B. H. Roberts as part of a seven-volume series beginning in 1902 as History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Use the index (volume #7) to find the many references on Lyman Wight and Texas. See article: Jesse, Dean C. "The Reliability of Joseph Smith's History." *Journal of Mormon History* 13 (1976): 23-46.
https://byustudies.byu.edu/history-of-the-church
https://www.cumorah.com/index.php?target=etext_lib

Smith, Joseph; Heman C Smith and F. Henry Edwards. 1967 (1896). *The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*. Independence Mo: Herald House.

This is the history of the Community of Christ church, first published by their historian (and later an Apostle) Heman C. Smith in 1896, see especially volumes two and three for a good history of the Mormons in Missouri and especially Lyman Wight.
http://www.centerplace.org/history/ch/ (vols. 1-4 only)
https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2478355?availability=Online (All 8 vols.)

***Smithwick, Noah. ***The Evolution of a State, or Recollections of old Texas Days*.** Independently published, 2016, 258 pages, ISBN: 1519094698.

This is one of the best works to read on life in early Texas. Smithwick's work is one of the most anecdotal of all early Texas memoirs. Smithwick came to Texas in 1827 at the age of 19. He became a blacksmith and later joined the army that fought in the Texas Revolution. In 1860 he moved to California where in the last two years of his life, while almost blind, dictated these memoirs to his daughter. For a detailed account of Lyman Wight and his colony while residing on Hamilton Creek (the famed Mormon Mill site) see pages 235-36, 299-309, and 319-22).

Sowell, A. J. *Early Settlers and Indian Fighters of Southwest Texas.* Austin: Ben C. Jones & Co., 1900. 844pp. (reprinted with an index in Austin: State House Press, 1986. 861pp.; Independently published 2019, 658 pages, ISBN: 1086947134; Kindle: Oakum Printing, 2019)

This volume contains 132 biographical sketches of rangers and pioneers who helped in the settling of the Texas frontier. Within Jack Huffman's vignette (pages 828-834) is a description of a group of men fighting Indians. One of these men is identified as **a**

Mormon named Chipman. This probably refers to **Ezra Alpheus Chipman**, who was one of the colonists in Lyman Wight's group. See also pages 524, 639, and 743-44.

Strubberg, Friedrich Armand and James C. Kearney (Translator). Friedrichsburg: A Novel, Colony of the German Furstenverein. (Jack and Doris Smothers Series in Texas History, Life, and Culture) University of Texas Press; Translation edition, 2012, 312 pages, ISBN: 0292737696.

Chapters five and seven detail the Mormons and their activities. See the notes for chapter five for a brief history of the colony and chapter seven detail a visit to the colony and Lyman Wight which the author calls Mr. Grey – for some unknown reason.

Sutherland, Mary A. *The Story of Corpus Christi*. Houston, TX: Rein & Sons Company, 1916. 146pp.

On pages 16-17 the author relates a story about a pair of Mormon missionaries that traveled through the area (in 1855 or thereabouts) and for a brief time held regular meetings in a warehouse on the waterfront. Because "amusement was scarce the men [in the community] attended regularly." The missionaries (was this Preston Thomas ?) were compelled out of the town of **Corpus Christi** by the wives of the attending men.
This same story is somewhat enlarged by Coleman McCampbell in his book *Texas Seaport: The Story of the Growth of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Area*, (which is a revised and enlarged edition of his *Saga of a Frontier Seaport* [1934] NY: Exposition Press, 1952, 305pp., see pages 43-44 and 252).

Syers, William Edward. *Off the Beaten Trail*. Waco, TX: Texian Press, 1971. 493pp. LC 70-182109.

This is a fun and pleasurable reading volume (written by a newspaper columnist) that began back in 1963 as a three-volume paperback set. The set was revised and compiled into one volume in 1971. The "Mormons of Zodiac" are on pages 280-283 of the one volume edition: and on pages 130-132 (under a different title) in volume one of the original paperback set. The chapter on Wight's community at Zodiac is very brief, but descriptive.

Taylor, Lonn and Warren, David B. *Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840-1880*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1975. 387pp.

Page 34 mentions the Zodiac community with their cabinetmakers and water-powered lathe.

Texas Indian Papers. 4 vols, ed. Dorman H. Winfrey, [et al.], Austin: Texas State Library, 1959-1961. LC 59-63649. (Also republished as *Texas Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825-1916*, ed. Dorman H. Winfrey and James M. Day, 5 vols., Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1966; this petition is also reprinted in *The Bandera County Historian* 15 (Fall 1993) 3.)

Volume three (pp. 241-242) contains a petition dated September 21, 1855, from the citizens of Bandera to the governor of Texas, Elisha M. Pease (1853-1857). Within the petition the citizens ask for protection from the Indian raids. **The petition is signed by Lyman Wight and others from his colony**.

Texas Myths. Ed. Robert F. O'Connor. College Station: Texas A & M University

Press (for the Texas Committee for the Humanities), 1986. 248pp. ISBN 0-89096-264-2.

In the chapter by C. W. Smith entitled "Changing Visions of the Good Life," he briefly mentions (on page 196) the Mormon colony of Zodiac as one of many attempts at communal life in early Texas history.

Tiling, Moritz Philipp Georg. *History of the German Element in Texas From 1820-1850, and Historical Sketches of the German Texas Singers' League and Houston Turnverein From 1853-1913*. Franklin Classics, 2018, 238 pages, ISBN: 0342632485.

Excellent information about the area and its new emigrants that the Wight colony interacted with.

Upshur County Sesquicentennial Committee*. Upshur County, Texas: A Sesquicentennial History*. Upshur County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1996, 376 pages.

A history of families in Upshur County compiled by the Sesquicentennial Committee, Gilmer, Texas covering 1846-1996. With name index.

Van Wagenen, Michael Scott. ***The Texas Republic and the Mormon Kingdom of God. College Station, TX: Texas A & M; Texas A & M University Press, 2002, 136 pages, ISBN: 1585441848.

Joseph Smith's interest in Texas coincided with the strategic goal of Sam Houston, to create a buffer zone between the areas of Anglo settlement and Mexico. History has until now hidden how close the ambitions of these two men came to carving out a Mormon State in the Republic of Texas.

According to Mormon records, Houston agreed to sell (if the Texas Congress would agree) Smith a disputed strip of land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande. Before the Mormon leader could take further action, he was murdered. In the leadership succession crisis that ensued, the negotiations were abandoned. Yet, the secret negotiations cannot be seen as a total failure. Houston remained a friend to the Mormons throughout his political career and was later instrumental in ending the Utah War of 1857–58. [Goodreads]

As an addendum to this forgotten part of history see: Lyman, Edward Leo. "Larger than Texas: Proposals to Combine California and Mormon Deseret as One State." *California History* 80, no. 1 (2001): 18–33.

Van Wagoner, Richard S. *Mormon Polygamy: A History*. 2nd ed. Salt Lake City: UT, Signature Book, 1989.

An excellent one-volume treatment of the subject – Wight and his sons along with several other colonists were polygamist's.

Wight, Lyman. ***An Address By Way of an Abridged Account and Journal of My Life from February 1844 up to April 1848. Austin: 1848. 16pp. (reprinted Salt Lake City, UT: Wight Trust Publishers, [P.O. Box 165, Jameson, MO.] 1989, 28pp., ISBN 0259555002).

This missionary and recruiting pamphlet was **written and privately published by Wight** to explain his feelings and "call" to Texas. Wight also describes the success of his colony

after their first three years, along with the country of Texas. (This pamphlet is supplementarily recapitulated in Bitton's article, pages 14-19.)
http://www.latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100701.pdf
https://archive.org/stream/addressbywayofab00salt/addressbywayofab00salt_djvu.txt

Wight, Jermy Benton. ***The Wild Ram of the Mountain: The Story of Lyman Wight. Bedford, WY (Privately printed by the author) 1996. 521pp. ISBN: 0965116379.

A biographical family history written by a descendant of Wight. The history and research are fairly accurate and detailed, it is the stretching of the story and the conclusions that a historian will find frustrating. The author missed several items and photographs for his work, a professional editor and seasoned book publisher would have done wonders for the volume, but the writing is pleasant. Appendix one adds **a listing of the colony members** from the pinery who went south with Wight (this information comes mostly from T. R. Turk's unpublished paper.) Also included with the book is Wight's, *An Address by Way of an Abridged Account and Journal of My Life from February 1844 up to April 1848*. Has **many family photos** that you cannot find anywhere else.

Williams, R. H. *With the Border Ruffians: Memories of the Far West, 1852-1868, e*d. E. W. Williams. London: Hazell, Watson and Viney, LD., 1907. 478pp. LC 08-12130.

Pages 164-165 mentions the "old Mormon settlement where there were several solid stone houses" built near the Medina River. A Confederate military company (in March of 1861) used these houses for muster and shelter one night when a "keen, cold norther" was blowing.

Woods, Fred E. *Finding Refuge in El Paso: the 1912 Mormon Exodus from Mexico*. Springville, UT: Cedar Fort Inc., 2012, 332 pages, ISBN: 146211153X.

Covers the 1912 Mormon exodus from Mexico during the height of the Mexican Revolution of the 1910's; approximately 4,500 colonists, many of whom had lived in Mexico since 1885, had to leave their homes, farms, livestock and personal property behind.
A retelling of this episode of Mormon History can be found in the author's article: "Finding Refuge in El Paso: Commemorating the July 1912 Mormon Exodus from Mexico." *Mormon Historical Studies* 13 nos. 1-2, (Spring/Fall 2012): 230-237.
https://ensignpeakfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Finding-Refuge-in-El-Paso-Commemorating-the-July-1912-Mormon-Exodus-from-Mexico.pdf
https://latterdaysaintmag.com/article-1-11596/
https://www.thechurchnews.com/archives/2012-08-04/finding-refuge-in-el-paso-50490

Zelade, Richard. *Lone Star Travel Guide to the Texas Hill Country*. Taylor Trade Publishing, 2011, 392 pages, ISBN: 1589796098; [also, Kindle edition; and downloadable from the web].

The book has an outstanding chapter on the Mormon Trails, pages 153-244, has all the details maps and pictures you could want – an excellent job by the author!
https://downloads2020.com/ebook.html?pid=6&offer_id=397&ref_id=3f92421d02fd651b951f9fb6b8699TMN_d3178de1_3f0e4cf5&sub1=1051&keyword=Lone%20Star%20Travel%20Guide%20To%20The%20Texas%20Hill%20Country&sub8=Lone%20Star%20Travel%20Guide%20To%20The%20Texas%20Hill

%20Country&m=Lone%20Star%20Travel%20Guide%20To%20The%20Texas%20Hill%20Country

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

[Newspaper articles are difficult to find and very time-consuming to use – a lot of repetition and reprinted articles under different titles makes the researcher's job even more difficult. So today we use all the online sources that we can—the problem with only using online sources is that the older, non-indexed and non-filed articles are loss. Of course, I cannot list ALL newspapers article that mention or list the Wight colony—most of these articles just repeat what others from larger newspapers write. Thus, within this bibliography, I list the better and older articles that one cannot find online, along with those that add to the story. I also tried to use as many different newspapers as possible to give those students not close to Austin a chance to use their local resources.]

"1902: Fire Seals Fate." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], October 22, 1987 [Centennial Issue], 20.

Bateman, Audray. "Webberville Once 'Hell's Half Acre'." *Austin American-Stateman* (Austin, Texas), August 6, 1982, C5.

A remarkably interesting article about the history of Webberville with the Mormons being among its first settlers.

Blair, S. M. "Correspondence." *St. Louis Luminary*, May 19, 1855, 102.

Blair tells of his missionary experiences in Texas and reports the progress of his emigration company from Texas to Utah.

Breazeale, George. **"Mark of the Mormons."** *Dallas Times Herald Sunday Magazine*, May 4, 1969, 18-20.

This is the best written, illustrated and researched article on Mormon Mill. Mormon Mill is the now named location that the Wight colony built and settled from 1851-1853. The site is 9.6 miles south of Burnet and 5.4 miles north of Marble Falls on Hamilton Creek. This is where the colony moved after they left their community of Zodiac. Within the short article the author gives the mill's history from its inception to 1902, when it was torn down.

Broun, Lutie L. "Mormon Progress." *Houston Chronicle*, February 23, 1958.

A short article about the Mormon colony of Kelsey, giving its history and mentioning its current bishop Rhaunal A. Hardman along with the history of the different churches built there over the years.
Has a photo of the service station-store in Kelsey with John J. Ault, C. C. Bullard, Carl Bryant and D. L. Craig; and a second photo of the third church built there in 1950.

"Connally Sets July 24 as Mormon Day." *Houston Post*, July 18, 1963.

Texas Governor John Connally signs a proclamation declaring July 24 as Mormon Pioneer Day in Texas. The column briefly mentions the Wight colony settlements and achievements in the settlement of Texas.

Cox, Neva. **"Hill Country Owes Much to Mormons."** *San Antonio Express*, December 8, 1931, A10-.

This is the **best illustrated article (8 photographs)** that also gives a fair, but tabloid overview of the Wight colony--information was obtained from Smith's manuscript.

Cunningham, Michael. "Mormons Almost got Big Slice of Texas." *Gilmer Mirror*, September 23, 1984, A10.

This three-paragraph column discusses the "almost" South and West Texas land deal between the Mormons and Sam Houston.

***"**Death of Rev. Lyman Wight, the Mormon."** *Galveston Weekly News*, May 25, 1858, 1.

This is the undocumented obituary notice that Heman Hale Smith selectively paraphrases in his unpublished manuscript "The Lyman Wight Colony in Texas, 1846-1858." What is unusual about this notice is its positive attitude toward these Mormons; when one considers the abundance of national bad press about the Mormons in Utah during the late 1850's, the attitude and stance of this article becomes unique.

***Debo, Darrell. **"Then ... and Now: Old Mormon Mill Scenic Beauty Spot**." *The Burnet County Bulletin*, August 22, 1974, 1-2.

Debo gives the history of the mill along with a **chronology of the various owners since Wight** sold it in 1853. The mill was erected by Wight's colony in 1851 and was utilized until 1901. The mill was torn down for its lumber in 1902. Included with the article is a **photograph of the original Mormon Mill** (taken about 1898) at Hamilton Creek.

Debo, Darrell. "Then ... and Now: The Mormon Mill Story." *The Burnet County Bulletin*, June 13, 1974.

***Edwards, Walter F. “Gillespie Mormon Head says No to Returning to S.L.C.” *Kerrville Daily Times*, Nov. 9, 1990, 3A.

An excellently authored short article by a long-time correspondent.

"Elder Lyman Wight." *Texas Democrat* [Austin], June 10, 1846.

"Elder Lyman Wight of the church of the "Latter Day Saints," will preach on next Sunday 4 o'clock p.m., at the Capitol. The public are invited to attend."

"Fredericksburg." *Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register*, February 17, 1848, 2.

A small column that reports news from a letter received about a visit to the new town of Fredericksburg. The column discusses the Mormons settling a few miles south of the town and erecting a saw and grist mill that "**furnish the [German] colonists with all the lumber and meal that they require**. They [the Mormons] have also enclosed large fields and expect to raise several thousand bushels of corn. These Mormons have been exceedingly serviceable to the colonists, as they have not only **supplied them with meal and lumber but have instructed them how to cultivate their new lands advantageously**."

Ghormley, Pearl. "Mormon Doctrine Came to Texas 100 Years Ago." *The Daily Texan*, October 20, 1950.

This University of Texas at Austin student newspaper gives a short account of the Wight group and the religious doctrines they brought to Texas.

Gibbs, Alta Holland. "Burnet County's Forgotten Mormons." *Burnet Bulletin*, June 30, 1938, 4-6.

Gibbs, Alta Holland. "Hill Country History: Mormon Mill Site Renowned, Scenic." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], July 15, 1971, A6.

Has a photo of both the actual mill on Hamilton Creek falls and the community's cemetery.

Gibbs, Alta Holland. "Hill Country History...: The Saga of Hamilton Creek." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], December 9, 1971, A8, A9.

Gideon, Samuel E. "The Campusanto." *Austin American-Stateman* (Austin, Texas), October 31, 1943, 23.

A remarkably interesting article about **Mormon material culture** during the Wight colony's time period, here the author states that an entire row of houses was built by the Mormons in the 1850's. The article then continues with a brief history of the colony.

"Gillespie County had many Mills in Early Days." *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, May 1, 1946, section 9. 1.

An excellent article detailing all the early mills in Gillespie County.

Gilmer, Kelsey Community Chosen in 1899 by First Mormon Settlers. *Gilmer Mirror*, January 29, 1948.

A historical article that retells the founding of the **Mormon colony of Kelsey** in east Texas.

Greene, A. C. "Mormons in Texas." *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, February 3, 1988; also printed in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, March 14, 1988]. (From the Dallas Morning News)

Greer, Thomas R. "**Kelsey**: A Southern Place of Gathering." *Liahona the Elder's Journal* [Independence, MO], 7 February 26, 1910, 60-61, 569-571, 575-76.

Written by the principle of the **Kelsey** schools, the article reflects about the beginnings and growth of what is the largest church branch outside Utah and its areas. Begun in 1904 the LDS Church thought it was favorable time to establish a colony in Kelsey, discusses the price of land and the growth of agriculture, the building-up of the LDS community and where families are moving from to Kelsey, the new railroad spur being built, and the building and finishing of their church meeting house – includes a photo of the Kelsey Church.
https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/535167-1909-1910-vol-07-liahona-

the-elders-journal?
viewer=1&offset=2#page=732&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=kelsey

Haas, Oscar. "Mormon Settlement on Route." *New Braunfels Herald*, March 27, 1975, B3.

Haas discusses the "more direct road to Fredericksburg" as opposed to the road the first settlers had to travel. According to the minutes of the Comal County Commissioners Court of July 5, 1849, the court ordered the new roadmasters to run the road by three areas--the Mormon Settlement on the Pedernales being one of them.

***Hess, R. B. "In Centexas: Lot of Mormons was Tough One." *American-Statesman* [Austin], July 8, 1962, A3.

From Marble Falls: Mormon Mill on Hamilton Creek on a ranch now owned by Oneil Frasier, the author found Mrs. Nanie Moore Kinser born at this location and has lived there some 70 odd years. She gives a history of the area and the Lyman Wight colony—not entirely historically accurate, but the local flavor of the article makes-up for it. The colony was headed back to Jackson County Missouri when Wight died. Has a **photo** of Hamilton Creek where the mill was located.

“Historic Gavel Given to Gillespie County Judge.” *Fredericksburg Standard (*Fredericksburg, Texas), November 28, 1951, 1, 8.

Gives an excellent history of the Wight colony and their local history. A Dallas attorney, Allen Wight, a great-great-grandson of Lyman Wight, made a gavel from wood milled by the Wight colony so long ago and gifted it to the County of Gillespie, a fun read with lots of local history.

“Historic Old Mills.” *Fredericksburg Standard (*Fredericksburg, Texas), March 18, 1937, 5.

An excellent article that discusses the history of all the mills in Gillespie County.

"**History of Lyman Wight**." *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* [Liverpool, England], 27 (July 22, 1865) 455-. (Previously printed in the *Deseret News* (August 8, 1858)).

A four-column wide article starting with his history before joining the LDS Church, his time in Missouri and Nauvoo as well as the Wisconsin pinery. Incredibly detailed with his life and experiences—a fully accurate and excellent source.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=aa37bc2d-87bc-432d-b6d0-61f613cf30e6&crate=0&index=7
https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2582557&q=History+of+Lyman+Wight++++August+1858&sort=rel

“History of the Mormon Colony.” *Fredericksburg Standard*, March 18, 1937, 33, 35.

An interesting retelling of the history of the Lyman Wight colony at Zodiac with emphasis on Wight’s running for chief justice and then not attending the required meetings.

"History Unit Told Data on Mormons." *Austin American-Statesman* [Austin], July

27, 1956, 24.
The article reports a meeting of the Burnet Historical Association featuring Atla Holland Gibbs who traced the land ownership of Mormon Mills from the time of Lyman Wight to 1956.

Hyde, Orson. "To the Saints Scattered Abroad--Greetings. *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* [Liverpool, England], 10 (October 15, 1848) 317-319.
The article was written in answer to Lyman Wight's Address--which was his missionary call and recruiting pamphlet for emigrating Latter-day Saints. Within this article Hyde informs the Saints that Wight does not represent the Brethren at Salt Lake City, and to "pay no attention to Wight's call" to come to Texas.

Jordan, Grayson. "Mormons First Came to Rocky Hill Region." *Fredericksburg Standard*, May 1, 1946 [Centennial Edition], section 6, p. 1, 3.

Kinser, Nannie Moore. "Some True History About Mormon Mill." *Burnet Bulletin*, January 23, 1936, 3.

Knopp, Ken. "In the Heart of Indian Territory, Mormon and German Colonists Come Together in the Texas Hill Country, in Search of a new Zion." *The Radio Post* [Fredericksburg, TX], June 4, 1970, section 2, 5 (republished May 6, 1971, section 5, 5-6).
Sympathetically written story of the history of the Mormons, Texas and the Germans of Fredericksburg

Knopp, Ken. "The Story of Lyman Wight--The Wild Ram of the Mountains." *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, May 6, 1971, section 5, 2-3.

Latham, Diana. "In **Williamson Settlement** near Vidor: Mormons Feel Religion they Practice is way of Life." *Beaumont Journal*, April 27, 1963, 2.
A religiously written article about the saints and their religion in the Williamson Settlement area near Vidor, Texas. **Pictured are William and Joissine Williamson** the founders of the settlement.

Lay, M. B. "Zodiac: Early-day Mormon Settlement Flourished on Pedernales, Short-Lived Colony Home to Prosperous Milling Operation." *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, September 3, 1986, section 2, p.1.

“Louis Schmidtzinsky Place Mystery Farm Number Ten.” *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, October 15, 1952, 9, section 2, 4.
The paper had a contest showing various farms – the Schmidtzinsky’s farm is where the Wight colony had their land and mills; a small history of the farm is given.

“Lyman Wight.” *Frontier Guardian* 1 (November 14, 1849) 2.
While the Saints were gathering and trekking along the Mormon Trail from Nebraska to

the Utah territory, Apostle Orson Hyde published a newspaper (1849-1852) out of Kanesville (i.e., Council Bluffs), Iowa. This short mention was Hyde's digging back at Apostle Lyman Wight's self-published "letter" actually a recruiting pamphlet and a history of his time and successes in Texas to all the new Latter-day Saints just arriving in the new world. Here, Hyde defends the actions of the Church (removing Wight from the council of Fifty, the Quorum of the Twelve and eventually excommunicating him. The article speaks of the visit to the Wight colony of Peter Haws and Lucien Woodworth and their report of how "they were so disgusted with Lymans' drunkenness and corruption that they could not stand it at all."

Lewis, Ruth. "Day of Mormon Church Near Here Recalled." *Austin American*, August 2, 1940.

Tells of the Wight colony when they were camped on the Colorado River, a few miles north of Austin, on land now named Mormon Springs; now owned by Mrs. Clara Driscoll.

Maclin, Pam. "Early Settlers..., **Williamson Settlement** Plays Lasting Role in area History." *The Vidor Vidorian*, August 1, 1985, 1, 6.

The article gives a brief history of **William and Joissine Williamson** and the founding of the Williamson Settlement north of Vidor, Texas

"Marble Monument Marks Site of Mormon Settlement `Zodiac' on Banks of Pedernales near Fredericksburg." *The Radio Post* [Fredericksburg, TX], February 9, 1967, 11, 13.

"Markers in Mormon Cemetery Identified." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], July 15, 1971, B9.

This brief article lists the **names of some of the deceased that are buried in the Mormon Mill cemetery**.

Maverick, Maury. "Maury Maverick Commentary." *San Antonio Express*, November 16, 1960.

A short, inaccurate historical commentary on the Wight colony.

Mays, Kenneth. "Picturing History: Mormon Mill Cemetery, Burnet County, Texas." *Deseret News*, November 2, 2016. Accessed May 5, 2021.

A small article dealing just with the Mormon Mill Cemetery and the mill stones. Has **several excellent photos** of the graveyard and its stone fence along with the mill stones. Millstones from the mill are on display at Fort Croghan in the town of Burnet, Burnet County, Texas.
https://www.deseret.com/2016/11/2/20599564/picturing-history-mormon-mill-cemetery-burnet-county-texas#millstones-or-grinding-stones-were-once-used-by-lyman-wight-and-his-followers-on-hamilton-creek-in-burnet-county-texas-they-are-on-display-at-fort-croghan-in-burnet

McSwain, Ross. "Joseph Smith Follower brought Mormonism to Texas." *San Angelo Standard-Times*, April 4, 2002, 3A.

A brief but full article that gives a good introduction and history of the Wight colony.

McSwain, Ross. “Mormons in Texas Long Before Jeffs.” *San Angelo Standard-Times*, April 9, 2007, 3A.

An excellent article that gives a good introduction and history of the Wight colony—has some minor date issues.

McSwain, Ross. “Out Yonder: Mormons’ Zion now a Memory.” *San Angelo Standard-Times*, Nov. 10, 1980, 15.

An excellent article that gives a good introduction and history of the Wight colony—has some minor date issues.

"The Mormon Colony on the Medina." *The Devine News*, January 28, 1959.

This three paragraph article summaries Hunter's booklet on the Wight colony.

"The Mormon Settlement in Texas." *Galveston Weekly News*, October 26, 1852, 2.

From Hamilton Valley a colonist writes "we have built mills...much more extensive than our former mills. We have a new county...called Burnet. Much inquiry has been made...whether we are in fellowship with the Salt Lake Mormons. We have no fellowship, no connection either direct or indirect, with them." The two-paragraph column is **signed "W," no doubt, Lyman Wight**.

"Mormon Settlement, Texas." *Bloomington Herald*, November 11, 1849, 2.

As found in Dale Morgan's Newsclippings from Iowa and Illinois, 1841-1849, page 340-341. The article reports the Wight colony "negotiating for the purchase of a large tract of land on the Piedernales" River, near Fredericksburg, Texas.

"Mormons." *Texas Democrat* [Austin]. June 17, 1846, 3.

A one paragraph column which reports that "a gentleman [Lyman Wight] of that persuasion preached to a large audience at the Capitol on the last Sabbath."

"The Mormons." *Texas Democrat* [Austin]. October 7, 1846.

A one paragraph column that recounts "a few months since" the arrival of the Wight colony ("130 of them") and their building "temporary habitations" and "a grist and sawmill on a large spring branch, which furnishes sufficient water for the purpose. We have visited them several times and they have the appearance of being an honest hard-working people."

"Mormons Came to Austin Exactly a Century Ago." *American-Statesman* [Austin], August 12, his, 4.

The article if off by ten years, the colony reached Austin in 1846, not 1856; but the brief telling of the history is interesting and better yet, is the update to local Austin Mormon history.

“Mormons First came to this Area 100 Years ago; Only Cemetery-Marker Remain.” *Fredericksburg Standard*, July 23, 1947, 8.

Tells of the Zodiac marker (with **photo**) and a very brief history of the settlement.

"The Mormons of Texas." *Galveston Weekly News*, March 9, 1858, 3.
A two-paragraph column which reports that the San Antonio Herald printed a statement "to the effect that the Mormons of Texas were going to join Brigham Young at Salt Lake." In a letter dated February 24, 1858, to the Galveston Weekly News, Lyman Wight "contradicts that statement," and contends that his group "had long given sufficient evidence of our perfect hatred of Brigham..., and consider it a perfect slander upon our character to have our names associated with his on paper." The letter from Wight is addressed from Mountain Valley, Texas.

"Mormons Visit Mill Cemetery." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], August 5, 1971, A9.

Moses, Tad. "Hill Country History: Smithwick in Burnet Country." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], March 15, 1973, C1-C2.
A particularly good article that reviews the life of Noah Smithwick while recounting his dealings with the Wight colony, and his buying of their lumber and grist mill. **The article also includes a picture of the mill which sets near Hamilton Creek. (The picture is believed to have been taken about 1898--the mill was destroyed in 1902).**

"Mount Bonnell." *Daily Democratic Statesman* [Austin], July 13, 1876, 3.
A one paragraph column that mentions Wight's colony, "where wandering Mormons many years ago established a village, there is a millstone which they cleft from the mountainside said to be as perfect as any imported from Scotland." [Interesting story since the Wight group brought their own mill stones with them from Wisconsin, and they were imported from France]

"News of the Church." *Deseret News* [Salt Lake City], February 5, 1910, 26.
States that **Kelsey, Texas**, is one of the largest branches of the Church outside of Utah (the colony numbering over 500) and reports the building and dedication of their new chapel on January 16th, 1910.

Havel, O'Dette. "Mormon's Chapel Honored." *El Paso Times*, October 11, 1985, 39.
An excellent article about the start of the LDS Church in El Paso, Texas.

Olds, Greg. "Hill Country History: Burnet County was Named for David G. Burnet--But Why?" *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], May 9, 1974, B1.
This article does not mention any Mormons but does reproduce the original petitioners' signatures that are on the 1851 petition asking for the creation of Burnet County. Within the 79 signatures that accompany the petition are 44 Mormon colonists from Wight's group.

"One Minute with the Makers of Gillespie County." *Fredericksburg Standard* (Fredericksburg, Texas) June 30, 1976.
List the Mormon population by name in Gillespie County from the 1850 census.

"Only Survivor of Mormon Colony at Bandera." *San Antonio Express*, June 7,

1931, 9.

A five-paragraph column about **Virginia E. Minear (Mrs. George Hay**). The article includes two **photographs** of the Hay family and homestead.

Perkes, Kim Sue Lia. “Being a Mormon in 1940’s Austin Wasn’t Easy.” *Austin American-Stateman* (Austin, Texas), July 25, 1997, A12.

Gives the experiences of Norma Walsh Mcullough growing-up as a religious minority in Austin.

Perkes, Kim Sue Lia. “Texas’ Mormon Past: Anniversary of Trek that Created Mecca in Utah, not Texas.” *Austin American-Stateman* (Austin, Texas), July 25, 1997, A1.

Tells about the Utah holiday of “Pioneer Day”, celebrated every July 24, since the arrival of Brigham Young into the Great Salt Lake Valley. Also, under the sub-title “Mormon Colony Helped Develop the Austin Area”, the author gives an excellent retelling of the Wight colony and its local history surrounding the Austin area—highly informative, with maps.

Polk, Stella Gipson. "Hill Country History: By the Old Mill Stream." *The Highlander* [Marble Falls, TX], October 17, 1974, A9.

Pope, Harold. "Was Texas the New Zion?" *The Houston Chronicle Magazine* [part of the Sunday Houston Chronicle], December 4, 1949, 28-29.

An inaccurate and ineptly written and inconsequential article about Wight's group. The **photographs** that accompany the article are unique in that one shows the foundation stones of Mormon Mill on Hamilton Creek, and another the Texas State Centennial Historical Marker at Mormon Mill.

Rider, Sara. "Mormons Camped Near Webberville." *American-Statesman* [Austin], December 11, 1971, A12.

Recalls the village of Webberville being in contention for the state capital and the Wight colony being camped nearby. Tells of the Mormon negotiations for land for themselves and Wight preaching to the folks in June 1839. Historically and chronologically erroneous; but the fictionalize account of Wight’s preaching is interesting.

"River Rises Drove Mormon Pioneers from Homes Here." *Austin American*, July 19, 1936, New Home Section, 4.

Recounts the Austin settlement of Wight's colony through 1858.

Rummel, Lena. "History of Mormon Settlement." *The Messenger* [Marble Falls, TX], December 12, 1936.

Scovil, Lucius N. *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* [Liverpool, England], 11 (February 15, 1849) 54-.

Writing from New Orleans on December 11th, 1848, to Bro. (Apostle Parley P.) Pratt, tells of new Latter-day Saints just getting over their voyage (from England). Speaks of missionaries **Thomas Preston**, Martindale and James McGaw passing through to Texas to

preach there and visit Lyman Wight. They told Scovil that Elders L. Woodworth and P. Haws had just returned from Lyman's camp with **unfavorable news that Lyman and George Miller** had dissolved their partnership and that Miller had taken a part of Lyman's camp and come 130 miles this way (from Texas to New Orleans).
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=25cf0d42-d2f7-45a7-b034-f3a0f476c955&crate=0&index=5

Smith, George A. "A Reprint of a Letter dated October 31, 1848, from George A. Smith to Orson Pratt." *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* [Liverpool, England], 11 (January 1, 1849) 14-.

Just four lines of type from a letter recounting the 1848 report of LDS Church representatives Peter Hawes and Lucien Woodworth on their returned from Texas, and their visit with Wight.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=64e964c0-1a9c-4cf8-9e43-9e97ba562704&crate=0&index=13

Spencer, Orson. *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star* [Liverpool, England], 11 (June 15, 1849) 185-.

Speaks of "Elder Martindale on a return from an official visit to Lyman Wight, tell me that Lyman is in a very reduced condition, but far from being of a humble spirit. Some of his company are talking of the Guerrilla creed quite favorably. O Mores!"
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=7ef2cb90-4435-4fab-bc3b-a07cba3844cb&crate=0&index=8

Starkey, J. J. "Pioneer History." *Kerrville Times*, February 23, 1933.

Discusses Fort Martin Scott near Fredericksburg and the Mormon colony near there. All the information was extracted from Bigger's volume.

Syers, Ed. "Off the Beaten Trail: Flood ends Mormons Dreams of Zion in Texas." Corpus Christi Times, November 16, 1962.

Another retelling of the Wight colony – no added information.

Syers, Ed. "Off the Beaten Trail: Mormons of Texas." *Austin American*, November 18, 1962, C4. [Also printed as "Off the Beaten Trail: Zodiak, Near Fredericksburg, was Mormon Dream for Texas in 1840's." *Waco Tribune-Herald*, Nov. 18, 1964, 11-C.; and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*
Nov. 18, 1962, Section 2, p.9.]

Discusses the German town of Fredericksburg and its association with the Wight colony.

Syers, Ed. "Mormons' Zodiac now Grazing Land." *San Antonio Express*, August 17, 1963.

A homey three column article about the German town of Fredericksburg and their long-ago neighbors the Mormons of Zodiac.

"Texas Items: Bell." *Galveston Weekly News*, May 4, 1858, 3.

A news item taken from the Independent, presumably a newspaper from the Bell County area states that on the "19th, nine well-constructed wagons drawn by fat cattle, and

containing all of what is known as the Wight Mormons, in all sixty-seven souls, passed through Belton. In consequence of the Indian forays, droughts, grasshoppers and other plagues, they have broken up and left their settlements in Bandera county and are now seeking a home in some other part of Texas.--They deny all sympathy with the `Salt Lake' party, repudiate the doctrines of Brigham Young, regarding him as an impure man, and disapprove of polygamy. The son-in-law of Wight--who died about a month ago--appears to be their leader."

Taylor, Sheila. "Home, Sweet Home: **Kelsey** Remains Faithful to Freedom." *Dallas Morning News*, January 4, 1981, E1, 4.

A beautifully written and excellent article giving the history of Kelsey but also the history of people growing-up in Kelsey and their experiences in this small Mormon town.

"Texas Mormonism." *Corpus Christi Caller*, January 17, 1886, 8.

A report from Brookston, Texas, (as published in the *Fort Worth Gazette*) of a Texas Mormon who is "seven times married and not twenty-five years old. He has one wife living at Greenville, two at Sherman and three at other towns in Texas."

Thomas, Alice. "History of Mormon Colony in Fredericksburg." *The Radio Post* [Fredericksburg, TX], March 1, 1979, B8.

***Thompson, Ted. "Mormons Once Wanted to Establish Their Own Government and Nation in Texas." *San Antonio Express*, March 18, 1928, D6. (Reprinted as "When the Mormons Came to Texas," in *Frontier Times* [Bandera, TX], 5 (May 1928) 324-327).

This author did his homework and offers the readers a fuller history of how the Lyman Wight colony came to be in Texas along with their history and movements while in Texas. https://www.frontiertimesmagazine.com/ecomm/product/vol-05-no-08-may-1928 (An Excerpt only)

Thompson, Ted. "With Fearless Mormons in Early Texas." *Dallas Morning News*, May 13, 1928, 3 (feature section).

Tolbert, Frank X. "Tolbert's Texas: Balloon-letter Land in Limestone County." *Dallas Morning News*, October 27, 1965.

Mentions the ghost town of Mormon Mills in Burnet County, Texas.

Tolbert, Frank X. "Tolbert's Texas: Mystery, Legends Wrap Stone Fences, Gorges." *Dallas Morning News*, August 17, 1968, A12.

Hurlbut Ranch, Hays County, double “H” bar brand and her 7,000 acres; the author was told that some Mormons (Wight colony) built some stone fences in several places and have a cemetery on the ranch – but, I think this is too far from the Zodiac settlement to be accurate – unless some of the colony men were hired to build the stone fences – approximately three feet high and completed with mortar.

Tolbert, Frank X. "Tolbert's Texas: Self-Reliant People." *Dallas Morning News*,

June 29, 1963.

An excellent and very descriptive article about **Kelsey**, **Gilmer** and Enoch Texas. Tolbert focuses on the local bishop of the area, Wilburn Tefteller, his dairy farm and family. Includes a photo of Tefteller and four (out of seven) of his children. Incorrect though, is that LDS folks do not take social security payments when retired – they do and there are no teachings saying different within the LDS Church or community. Probably, Tolbert mistakenly confused welfare payments with SSI retirement payments.

Tolbert, Frank X. "Tolbert's Texas: Steaming Temple `Melts' out Cash." *Dallas Morning News*, September 8, 1965.

The article focuses on the new meeting house just constructed in Gilmer, Texas. Tolbert repeatedly calls it a "temple." Also mentioned within the article is the LDS Church's internal welfare system and a short retelling of Wight's history in early Texas.

Tolbert, Frank X. "Tolbert's Texas: Waterfalls at Mormon Mills." *Dallas Morning News*, December 26, 1965, A23.

An excellent small article dealing with the Wight colony during their time on Hamilton Creek at their Mormon Mills camp--very descriptive with a homey Texas flavor. Includes a **photo** of the Hamilton Creek falls.

Turner, Milton. "Mormon Influence at **Williamson Settlement** Dates Back to 1900." *Beaumont Enterprise* June 23, 1952.

The article contains a short interview with **Calvin and Sadie Williamson** about the start of the Williamson Settlement (near Vidor, Texas) and their association with the LDS Church.

"Two Cemeteries in Hill Country Remain Mute Evidence of Old Mormon Colonies." *American-Statesman* [Austin], May 25, 1941, 3.

Considers and gives details of two little-known cemeteries of Zodiac and Mormon Mills (near Marble Falls).

"Unveiling." *Beaumont Enterprise-Journal*, July 1, 1979.

Picture with paragraph showing the new **William Williamson State Historical Marker**.

(Early Home Shows Mormon Made Timber) *Fredericksburg Standard*, July 17, 1968, section 2, 3; also published as "What Became of the Mormon Temple?" *The Radio Post* [Fredericksburg, TX], July 18, 1968, 7.

This small column includes two excellent **photographs** of the Jacob Weinheimer home (1854). The Weinheimer's built their five-room log home from the "lumber and long square oak timbers" that originally formed the **Zodiac Temple**.

Wight, L. "Editor of the News." *Galveston Weekly News*, June 18, 1849, 3.

Written by Lyman Wight from Zodiac, Texas on 30 May 1849.

A lengthy column telling of the colony's move to Zodiac (just four miles south of Fredericksburg, Texas) in April 1847, the building of their mill on the Pedernales River, the planting and harvesting of their crops (wheat and corn), a description of the valley they live-in and of Colonel Hays' expedition visiting the colony at the beginning and conclusion

of his trek.

ONLINE WEBSITES & RESOURCES:

Baldwin, Mabel Edna Leffel. "**Thomas Box** & Clarkey Carpenter **Box Family**: Early Mormon Converts from Texas." Elmroots: History of an American Family. Thursday, July 24, 2008.
Gives the family history of Box family in Texas. Accessed April 2021.
https://clmroots.blogspot.com/2008/07/thomas-box-early-mormon-convert-from.html

Barnett, Daniel. Texas Ghost Towns: **Kelsey** (Upshur County). January 5, 2012 (November 2010 photos) Accessed May 12, 2021
An excellent blog about the history of Kelsey includes **nine photos of remaining houses and buildings along with the village cemetery**.

Barr, Michael. "Looking back at: Zodiac." Texas Columns, "Hindsights." *Welcome to Texas Escapes: A Magazine Written by Texas*. TexasEscapes.com.
Accessed April 2021.
A small article about the Lyman Wight colony and their history at Zodiac; includes **two photos of current day Zodiac,** the field and the state historical marker.
http://www.texasescapes.com/MichaelBarr/Zodiac.htm

"Baneemy- The Wild Ram of the Mountains." Because I am Watching, By One Who is Watching.
An excellent quick summary of the life and times of Lyman Wight – also contains his **patriarchal blessing.**
https://onewhoiswatching.wordpress.com/

Baird, G. H. A Brief History of Upshur County. The Gilmer Mirror, August 1946.
https://www.gutenberg.org/files/55216/55216-h/55216-h.htm

Church History Library. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
The Church History Library building in Salt Lake City, Utah, was completed in 2009. It is a state-of-the-art facility designed to collect and preserve materials by or about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members. These records come from many diverse sources and represent numerous points of view. The collection consists of manuscripts, oral histories, architectural drawings, periodicals, maps, and other materials.
Introduction: https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/about-the-church-history-library?lang=eng
Main Page: https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/church-history-library?lang=eng

Clayton, Kathryn. "Texas area features LDS touch: Fredericksburg plaque honors ex-apostle Wight." *Deseret News*, March 26, 2000. Accessed May 5, 2021.
A noticeably short column about the Wight colony in Zodiac – no photos.
https://www.deseret.com/2000/3/26/19498115/texas-area-features-lds-touch-br-

fredericksburg-plaque-honors-ex-apostle-wight

Copeland, Alex. "What's in a Name? Mormon Mill Road." 101News. *HighlandLake.com* March 30, 2020. (*Accessed March 15, 2021.)*
A terrific article that has a photo of the actual Mormon Mill.
https://www.101highlandlakes.com/news/mormon-mill-road-in-marble-falls

Coppedge, Clay. "Texas Mormons." *Welcome to Texas Escapes: A Magazine Written by Texas*. TexasEscapes.com. Accessed April 2021.
A small article about the Lyman Wight colony and their history in Texas, no photos.
http://www.texasescapes.com/ClayCoppedge/Texas-Mormons.htm

Council of Fifty. https://academic2.ru/Council%20of%20Fifty_5552459

Deming, Robert C. "Divining the Zodiac Stone." History, *TexasHillCountry.com*. November 1, 2016. Accessed May 5. 2021.
A short article about the Wight colony in Zodiac – has **photos and video** – a good introduction.
https://texashillcountry.com/divining-zodiac-stone/#

The Joseph Smith Papers Project [JSPP]

Joseph Smith (1805–1844) was the founding prophet and first president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Joseph Smith Papers Project is an effort to gather all still existing Joseph Smith documents and to publish complete and accurate transcripts of those documents with both textual and contextual annotation. All such documents will be published electronically on this website, and many of the documents will also be published in print. See: Nathan N. Waite, "Using the Joseph Smith Papers Website: An Introduction," *Religious Educator* 20, no. 2 (2019): 104–121. https://rsc.byu.edu/vol-20-no-2-2019/using-joseph-smith-papers-website-introduction
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/

Under the Joseph Smith Papers Project is an index of People involved:
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/reference/people?filter=a
****Lyman Wight**
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/lyman-wight
George Miller
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/george-miller
Woodworth, Lucien
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/lucien-woodworth

Council of Fifty
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/search?query=council%20of%20fifty&sort=relevance&page=1&perpage=10&startdate=&enddate=&transcripts=false&issuggestion=false&types=documents-papers|documents-papers-administrative|documents-papers-documents|documents-papers-journals|documents-papers-histories|documents-papers-introductions|documents-papers-revelations-and-translations|documents-papers-legal|related-materials|biographical-directory|geographical-directory|glossary|event

Council of Fifty, Minutes
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/council-of-fifty-minutes-march-1844-january-1846-volume-1-10-march-1844-1-march-1845/96

Correspondence Related to Lucien Woodworth and the Republic of Texas. On 14 March 1844, Lucien Woodworth was assigned by the Council of Fifty to travel to the Republic of Texas to negotiate a "treaty" with President Samuel Houston for a possible Latter-day Saint settlement in Texas.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/articles/council-of-fifty-topic?highlight=council%20of%20fifty

Recommendation for Lucien Woodworth, 16 March 1844. The council issued **Woodworth a letter of recommendation** two days after making the assignment.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/recommendation-for-lucien-woodworth-16-march-1844/1

Lucien Woodworth, Nauvoo, IL, to Samuel Houston, 14 July 1844, Willard Richards, Papers, CHL. After Joseph Smith's death, Woodworth and at least one other member of the Council of Fifty, Willard Richards, drafted a letter to President Samuel Houston seeking a resumption of negotiations for a Latter-day Saint settlement in Texas.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/appendix-1-letter-lucien-woodworth-to-sam-houston-14-july-1844/1

Galveston, Republic of Texas

Lucien Woodworth visited the city in 1844, during his **mission to Texas to negotiate a treaty with the state** for a Latter-day Saint settlement. Texas became part of U.S. on 29 Dec. 1845.
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/place/galveston-republic-of-texas?highlight=texas

Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Compiled by the Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City: Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A day-by-day scrapbook of newspaper articles, diary entries, letters, minutes of church meetings, and other ephemeral material that is kept up to date by the Historian's Office of the (Utah) Mormon Church. This project was started sometime around 1910 by Andrew Jenson. The time frame encompasses the entire history of the Mormon movement. There is a sizeable index to the Journal kept at the Historian's Office (Salt Lake City) where the actual Journal is also located. Microfilm copies are available for purchase, and holding institutions include University of Utah, Utah State Historical Society, Brigham Young University, and Utah State University.
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/training/journal-history-of-the-church/journal-history-of-the-church

"Kelsey Heritage Center Groundbreaking Held." The Gilmer Mirror Online Accessed May 12, 2021.

The Kelsey Memorial Cemetery Association has broken ground for the new Kelsey Heritage Center, with a targeted completion date of Memorial Day 2015. Gives a succinct history of the town.
http://www.gilmermirror.com/view/full_story/26419421/article-Kelsey-Heritage-Center-Groundbreaking-held?

***Langford, Lauren A. and Jermy Wight. "Lyman Wight and his Colony: A Brief History." The Langford Family. Accessed April 2021.

A good medium-sized but detailed article on the history of the Wight colony and a short biography of Lyman Wight, has **lots of photos and drawings as well as a listing of the original colonists** who travelled from Wisconsin to Texas as well as a birthing list of

children born (22) while in Bandera county.
https://www.banderacounty.org/historical/HistorianFall2003.pdf
http://www.langfordfamily.com/pioneers/colony.html

“Lyman Wight, (1796-1858).” Doctrine and Covenants Central.
A small biography of Lyman Wight from an LDS perspective.
Accessed April 2021. https://doctrineandcovenantscentral.org/people-of-the-dc/lyman-wight/

“Lyman Wight, 1796 – 1858.” Grampa Bill's General Authority Pages.
A mid-size biography of Lyman Wight from an LDS perspective.
http://www.gapages.com/wightl1.htm

"Manuscript History of the Central States Mission, 1906- (LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department)
[A study that has yet to be done is a compilation of missionary’s diary writings, mission reports from that areas’ mission headquarters and local history – how interesting would a study that contained local history events either reported to the local newspapers or from the area’s local historical society combined with autobiographical writings from the actual missionaries involved in the event as well as an official (Church) report from the area’s mission headquarters?]
These are local histories of LDS Church missions that either included Texas or areas of Texas.
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/chd/organization/mission/western-states-1896
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-collections/
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-diaries/about/further-readings/
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/mission-histories-and-historical-reports?lang=eng

"Manuscript History of the Indian Territory Mission, 1855-1898." (LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department)
These are local histories of LDS Church missions that either included Texas or areas of Texas.
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/chd/organization/mission/indian-territory-1855?lang=eng
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-collections/
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-diaries/about/further-readings/
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5866&context=etd
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/mission-histories-and-historical-reports?lang=eng

"Manuscript History of the Southern States Mission, 1884-1897." (LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department)
These are local histories of LDS Church missions that either included Texas or areas of Texas.
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/chd/organization/mission/southern-states-1876?lang=eng
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-collections/
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-diaries/about/further-readings/

https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/mission-histories-and-historical-reports?lang=eng
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/mission-histories-and-historical-reports?lang=eng

"Manuscript History of the Southwestern States Mission, 1898-1906." (LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department)
These are local histories of LDS Church missions that either included Texas or areas of Texas.
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-collections/
https://lib.byu.edu/collections/mormon-missionary-diaries/about/further-readings/
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/mission-histories-and-historical-reports?lang=eng
http://amateurmormonhistorian.blogspot.com/2013/06/southern-states-mission-manuscript.html

McSwain, Ross. "Out Yonder: Mormons settled in Hill Country." *GoSanAngelo*, Lifestyle Columnists, June 9, 2012 [also printed in the *San Angelo Standard-Times*, June 10, 2012, 4B.
Accessed May 5, 2021.
http://archive.gosanangelo.com/lifestyle/columnists/out-yonder-mormons-settled-in-hill-country-ep-439247829-356233431.html/

Pioneer Database, 1847–1868.
Search the database to find the names of Latter-day Saint pioneers. The database includes the companies they traveled with and their experiences on the trail.
https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/

Richardson, Mark. "Lyman Wight, Early Latter-day Saint Apostle." *Owlcation*. Feb. 18, 2021. Accessed March 25, 2021.
https://owlcation.com/humanities/Lyman-Wight-Latter-day-Saint-Apostle

Zodiac. *The City of Fredericksburg, Texas* (The City of Fredericksburg's Website)
A paragraph history of the site of Zodiac, talks about its name change in 1885; has an interesting painting of the colony with several building and homes as well as the mill.
https://www.fbgtx.org/929/Zodiac

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS:

Berrett, Lamar C. "A History of the Southern States Mission, 1831-1861." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1960. 306pp.
This gives a detailed record of church growth, population, number of missionaries, as well as a record of the missionary activities of the LDS Church in Texas and the surrounding states for the years 1831-1861. Texas is specifically considered on pages 268-285.

Bowden, M. G. "History of Burnet County." Master's thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1940. 193pp.

A second-rate thesis that fails to give a competent history of the county, cities, or people of the area. The section (pages 39-47) that surveys the Wight colony is impregnated with erroneous statements and conclusions.

Cunningham, Michael C. "The Historic-Geographic Principles of the Mormon Migration and Colonization of Texas." Master's thesis, East Texas State University, 1985. 89pp.

Discusses the two Mormon migrations of the **Lyman Wight** group and the Church supported migration (organized colonization) and founding of **Kelsey**, in Upshur County, Texas, in the early 1900's.

Curtis, Sara Kay. "A History of Gillespie County, Texas, 1846-1900." Master's thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1943. 146pp.

An ably written county history that examines the geography, economic, and social aspects of Gillespie County. Wight's colony lived in the area from 1847 to 1853, near the Pedernales River (see pages 75-76, and 126).

Durning, Bonnie Means. **"A History of the Mormon Church in Texas, 1843-1906."** Master's thesis, East Texas State University, 1964. 86pp.

A banally written thesis with some gems of research and analysis through some parts of the text. The work contains appendices with reproduced primary material (e.g., Woodworth's letter to Houston), and a sizable segment on the **Mormon colony of Kelsey**--the author's hometown.

Ellsworth, Samuel George. "A History of Mormon Missions in the United States and Canada, 1830-1860." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, 1951. 462pp.

Texas receives only a sentence of coverage (on page 322) in this dissertation.

Hearne, Carl R. "The History of the Mormon Colony at **Kelsey, Upshur County**, Texas." Master's thesis, East Texas State Teachers College, 1949. 68pp.

Herrera, Ricardo. "Transnational Immigration Politics in Mexico, 1850-1920." Ph.D. dissertation, Tucson, Arizona: University of Arizona, 2013. 312pp.

The current historiography on Mexican immigration from 1850 through 1920, has neglected to seriously study the forgotten migration of American citizens seeking their American Dream in Mexico. The author seeks to understand how a very unstable international border dominated by constant Indian raids and filibuster attempts, led to transnational migration. After analyzing the experience of several ethnic groups, such as the Italian immigrants in Cordoba, Veracruz, or the colonies of those immigrants seeking religious freedom such as the Mormons and Mennonites in northern Mexico, that indeed, Mexico was the Land of God and Liberty.

Hormachea, Carroll Randolph. "The Mormon Migration to Texas under Lyman

Wight." Master's thesis, Trinity University, 1956. 101pp.
This thesis does a respectable job in describing the Wight colony and its movements, while also lending itself as a sociological study of the group. The work is somewhat dated and does not use the manuscript by Heman H. Smith.

Malone, Billy Charles. "An Early History of Austin, Texas, 1839-1861." Master's thesis, University of Texas, 1958. 136pp.
On pages 66-69 is related the history of the Wight colony during their brief stay near Austin. Caution is prescribed due to the authors' use of Brown's MMS who confused a few chronological and historical facts about the colony.

O'Neill, Patrick L. "The German Settling of Fisher and Miller Colony in West Central Texas." Master's thesis, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, 1997.
The Fisher & Miller colonies was a three-million-acre land grant situated on the western frontier of Texas that became the driving force behind more than 7,000 Germans immigrating to this area from 1844-1847. The Republic of Texas made these contracts in 1842 in an effort to colonize the western frontier to protect against Indian attacks and Mexican invasion. This is much the same thing that Smith was doing with his "treaty" (negotiations) with Sam Houston.

Sande, Shawn Patrick. "Guardians of the Pedernales: Military and Community on the Texas Frontier, 1848-1853." Master's thesis, Austin, Texas, University of Texas, 1995.
Discusses the Lyman Wight colony.

Seferovich, Heather M. "History of the LDS Southern States Mission, 1875-1898." Master's thesis, Provo, UT., Brigham Young University, 1996. 164pp.

Vandygriff, James Clyde. **"Kelsey, Texas: The Foundation and Development of a Latter-Day Saint Gathering Place in Texas."** Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1974. 131pp.
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/5185/
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6184&context=etd

Van Wagenen, Michael Scott. "The Texas Republic and the Mormon Kingdom of God: the Attempt to Establish a Theocratic Nation in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands in 1844." Master's thesis, University of Texas at Brownsville, 1999.
[See the book by the same author] Discusses Joseph Smith's interest in moving the Saints to Texas.

Wightman, Philip C. "The Life and Contributions of Lyman Wight." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1971. 128pp.
This good biographical study on Wight. Unfortunately, it was written just after Bitton's article and edited volume and did not include the information from those items. It also suffers from a lack of "local Texas" history, as well as largely ignoring RLDS thought and

perspective. It does a respectable job of pulling together most of the information found at BYU and the LDS Church Archives (in Utah) on Wight and his colony. https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6211&context=etd

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS:

A Different Path: The Story of the Family of Joseph Dwight Goodale, A Lyman Wight Colonist, by Deena L. Goodale, February 2012. Call Number: MS 25243 (Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

A history of Joseph D. Goodale and his descendants. Goodale and his family joined Lyman Wight and helped establish Wight's colony in Fredericksburg, Texas. In time the family left the Wightite colony, moved to Gallands Grove, Iowa, and joined the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d17b5a8e-f3cd-4601-a3d5-6e346dbf2b80/0/0 (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Articles about Mormons in Texas periodicals, 1858-1936, Call Number: **MS 13090**
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Contains copies of articles which mention the Church, from **Texas newspapers and magazines**.
Include articles on Mormon difficulties in Mexico during the revolution, the Lyman Wight colony and Mormon settlements in Texas, the Utah War, Mormon emigration, and Mormon and Navajo relations. Also includes a copy of a letter from Heman Hale Smith of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to Charles W. Ramsdell of the Texas State Historical Society, discussing the polygamous marriages of Lyman Wight and Orange Wight. (May only be accessed on-site.)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/9197dbbd-da6a-47c3-a040-b59a56903b40/0?view=summary (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Ashland, Jan. "Latter Day Saints at Mormon Springs." Unpublished typescript, May 11, 1964. 11 leaves. (Located at the Austin City Public Library, Austin History Center, AF-Mormons-M7500).

A high school paper that is an excellently written and researched report of the Lyman Wight Colony during their Austin settlement period. The author uses the Austin History Center's material on the Mormon's, but unfortunately misplaces and misconstrues the colony's history and chronology.

Bays, Charles Waldo. "The Memoirs of Charles Waldo Bays." (Typed from the original manuscript, and with preface and notes by his daughter Zelma Bays Locker) Omaha, NE: Privately published, 1971. 124pp. (Located at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, TX).

Charles Bays was the son of Davis Henry Bays whose family joined the Church when the

Wight colony was located at Zodiac, Texas. The memoirs give a history of the Bays' family from approximately 1839 to 1932.

Bays, Davis Henry. "Three Diaries of Davis Henry Bays." (With a forward by Zelma Bays Locker) Unpublished manuscript, 1973. n.p. (Located at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, TX).

Within these pages are xerox copies of three handwritten diaries for the years 1879, 1885 and 1886. Bays was born in Texas in 1839 and returned there as a missionary for the **RLDS Church** (now the Community of Christ) in 1879.

Boone, Joseph F. "From Nauvoo to Texas." Unpublished manuscript, 1971. 66pp.

Bowling, Beulah McKaughan. "Another Book is Opened--Truth is Revealed Concerning Lyman Wight, Pioneer of Texas." Unpublished manuscript, n.d. n.p. [14pp.] (Located at the Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin --Lyman Wight Biographical File [2 copies]; and the Thomas Ulvan Taylor Papers, boxes 2K276 and 2K286 [2 copies]; and the Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin [3 copies]).

A folksy pro-Church piece written by Bowling while she lived in the home of Dean T. U. Taylor who was researching Lyman Wight. The unpublished manuscript describes an automobile trip to Fredericksburg, Texas, (near the old Mormon settlement of Zodiac) to find the burial place of Wight. The piece is simple reading, but historically inaccurate. The text also contains an enormous amount of spelling errors which prove distracting to the reader. The typed copy at the Archives Division of the Texas State Library is titled "Lyman Wight, Pioneer of Texas"--the contents are the same. (See T. U. Taylor's published article as a follow-up to her account of the trip)

Bremond, John. John Bremond vs. Lyman Wight, Petition and Citation, Cause No. 1100, Civil Docket, 37th District Court, Bexar County, Texas. (District clerk's office, Bexar County; a typescript of the petition may be found in Appendix B of Hormachea's, "Mormon Migration to Texas.")

An Austin grocer, John Bremond, filed suit against Wight on August 3, 1854, for nonpayment of a note worth $685.09, that was executed on February 2, 1853.

Brown, Frank. "Annals of Travis County and of the City of Austin: From the Earliest Times to the Close of 1875." Unpublished manuscript, n.d. (Located at the Austin City Public Library, Austin History Center).

Chapters 12 and 13 contain an account of the Wight colony when they settled near Austin in 1846. The author unfortunately misconstrues some of the colony's history.

Carter, Gideon 1831-1912. Gideon Carter statement.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d75f9b0a-0165-43c3-b52d-6e6fe2c76eb0/0/0 (accessed: July 26, 2021)

Christiansen, ElRay LaVar 1897-1975. **Lyman Wight settlement photographs**,

Call Number:
PH 1685 (Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Photographs of Lyman Wight colony, 1921; Grant Dunford letter to Andrew Jenson, 1921 August 11; Church History Library.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c41510de-1d47-4695-af73-ebdc06844320/0/8 (accessed: July 21, 2021)
Snapshots taken during Christiansen's visit to two colony sites with Dr. Thomas Taylor of the University of Texas. Includes views of monument at Zodiac, Texas, (near Fredericksburg, off East Schmidtzinsky Road) commemorating settlement there from 1847 to 1851, as well as another monument at the old location of Mormon Mills at Hamilton Creek, near country road 340, in Burnet County, Texas. This settlement was occupied by the Wightites, 1851-1853. Also includes a view of a home at one of the sites. Christiansen and Taylor appear in two of the photographs.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/852928eb-eb6a-4833-bc1c-b94f632b7899/0/0 (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Congressional Globe 28th Congress, 1st Session (May 31, 1844) vol. 13, p. 664.
Shows the U.S. House of Representatives on May 25, 1844, declining to hear the reading of the memorial from General Joseph Smith on their petition to Congress (March 1844) to **create a buffer state** between Mexico, Texas, and the U.S.

Cotter, John and Dorothea. "The Mormon Colony Near Fredericksburg, Texas." July 13, 1968, n.p. (Located at the Archives Division, Texas State Library, and the Fredericksburg Pioneer Memorial Library)
This small homemade effort is a potpourri of original photographs, newspaper columns, and copied articles on the Wight colony. **Photographs** worth noting include: 1) the stone floor remains of the Mormon Temple, 2) Mormon Well, and 3) the Jacob Weinheimer house--he used the timber from the Zodiac Temple for his home.

***Holt, Gary Eugene 1937-. "**LDS Church history in Texas**," MS 14328. (Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)
Account of the **Lyman Wight colony**, the **Kelsey-Gilmer settlement** in Upshur County, the **William Williamson settlement** near Vidor, and the **Jozye settlement** in Madison County, Texas. Also describes the first branches in El Paso and Houston and includes statistics relating to the growth of the Church in Houston. Briefly mentions the opening of the Dallas Temple. Includes maps and a bibliography.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4a7c22ab-49fc-48ec-afee-f18487d78953/0/0 (accessed: July 21, 2021)

"Kyle Texas State History and History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Central Texas." Kyle Texas Stake Ten Year Anniversary, 2018. LR 555800 21.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah)
Contains the Kyle Texas Stake History and History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints in Central Texas on the ten year anniversary of the stake. The history contains photographs of the stake center, various ward members, and historic documents. Although most of the history is after 1930 – the piece, "Early Texas Mormons," by Fern Milligan (2/5/1986) does have the beginning of their family history in the Church in 1926 at their Rainbow Ranch near the towns of Driftwood and Wimberley as well as a small history of her father who worked on the XIT Ranch. (pp. 28-30.) The story is slightly carried-on in Dolores Milligan Riley's small piece on her mother, Neda Fern Meek's life during the 1920-1940's. (pp. 55-59).
(Only available in electronic format.)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/3faa96cc-0800-4f72-af57-6b64d2c8442f/0/0
(accessed: November 15, 2021)

LeBaron, Luella Wight. Luella W. LeBaron letters, 1963, Call Number: MS 2658.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Copies of letters dated 3 April and 15 May to Daniel A. Keeler, Deseret Sunday School Union, concerning information relative to Lyman Wight that had been published in Church manuals. (May only be accessed on-site.)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/4a6a854d-5fbd-473c-838b-c951c1e9cd57/0?view=summary (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Lacy, Sara. "History of the Mormon Settlement in Burnet County." (Copy of eight-page MSS, located at the Austin Public Library, Austin History Center, AF-Mormons-M7500).

Letters about Lyman Wight, Call Number: MS 18816
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

English translations of portions of German letters published in 1858 newspapers describing German immigrants' experiences in and around New Braunfels, Texas, including contact with Lyman Wight and Mormon colonies located in eastern Texas. Original newspapers located in the Sophienburg Museum and Archives in New Braunfels, Texas. Translations done by Alexander E. Schmalz, a Church employee.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d23a2a87-7aa5-43e8-89df-2d368e6d413b/0/0
(accessed: July 21, 2021)

List of men in Lyman Wight's [sic] colony, undated, Call Number: **MS 3539**
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

List of men in Lyman Wight's colony, as compiled from various sources. Printed in the *San Antonio Express*, December 8, 1931. (May only be accessed on-site.)
Reprints the original death notice of Lyman Wight as printed in the *Galveston Weekly News*, May 25, 1858; and next to that article gives a listing of men [within six paragraphs] involved in the colony gathered from the Heman Hale Smith manuscript located at the University of Texas at Austin.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/a20cd136-6051-4641-a2cd-8439a8cea0f7/0?view=summary (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Lyman Wight letter, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to Joseph **Smith, 1844 February 15**
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Letter sent to Joseph Smith and the Quorum of the Twelve by a committee consisting of Lyman Wight, George Miller, Phineas R. Bird, Pierce Hawley, and John Young. Reports interactions with the Indians in conjunction with their lumbering operations and offers proposals for missionary work in the South and Southwest. Text and signatures are in the handwriting of Otis Hobart. Folder includes typescript copy of letter, preceded by a typescript of another letter from the committee of same date (original of which is in MS 155 box 3 folder 6), and succeeded by typescript of minutes of 10 March 1844 meeting of the Council of Fifty. https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e8856204-dd12-41e9-8d6f-058d6948faaa/0/0

"Lyman Wight Letterbook, April 22, 1849, to March 7, 1856." Unpublished manuscript, n.d. 37pp. (Located at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) Library-Archives, Independence, MO; copy held in LDS Church Archives, LDS Church Historical Department, Salt Lake City, UT)

This "letterbook" is a compilation of 19 letters written by and to Lyman Wight. All the letters are meaningful to any study of Wight. The following are particularly important to those investigating the Wight colony: "Lyman Wight and Others to Major Neighbors," March 18, 1855; "Lyman Wight to the Northern Islander," July 1, 1855; "Robert S. Neighbors, Indian Agent to Messrs Lyman Wight and Other Citizens of Medina River," March 26, 1855; "Lyman Wight and Nineteen Others to the Governor's Sake of the State of Texas," March 7, 1856; and "Lyman Wight to Benjamin Wight," January 12, 1856.

Miller, Henry William 1807-1885. Henry W. Miller diary.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/fda3fb00-1768-44b4-94d4-c00a94b5a195/0/1 (accessed: July 26, 2021)

Minutes of Gillespie County Commissioners Court, Monday, June 2, 1851. (County Clerk of Gillespie County).

Contains the minutes that show the drafting of an order of the court that was served by the Constable of the Precinct to command elected Chief Justice Lyman Wight to meet with the County Commissioners to settle unfinished county business.

Mormon Mill. HAER Inventory (Historic American Engineering Record). Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. Inventoried by T. Lindsay Baker. June 1978. (Housed in the Mormon Mill file, Center for Historic Preservation and Technology, Texas Tech University).

The file includes an engineering site report for the **Mormon Mill area (the Hamilton Creek location of the Wight colony**). The report gives a conspectus of the site and states that when the mill was dismantled (in 1901) its lumber was used in the "construction

of several local buildings which remain standing today. At this time only the foundations of the mill are visible."
Correspondence within the file describe the site's 815 acres as 720 for ranging and 95 as either meadow or cultivated. Water is provided from a "private system from lake." Price set by owner (George A. Frasier) at $1,000 per acre.

Mormon Mill, Tex. Mormon Mill Quadrangle, Texas - Burnet County, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Texas 30098-F2-TF-024-(1967) U.S.G.S.

Owens, Mrs. Homer. Correspondence of Mrs. Homer Owens (Travis County [Austin] Deputy Clerk) to Dean Emeritus Thomas U. Taylor (University of Texas). Letter dated February 27, 1941. (Housed in the Adina de Zavala Collection, Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin).
The letter is in response to an inquiry by T. U. Taylor about the ownership of the land which the Wight colony settled on 1846, near Austin.

Petition to the [Texas] State Legislature to Organize the County [of Burnet]. Dated December 17, 1851.
The petition contains a total of 79 signatures, 44 of which belong to the Wight colony.

Photograph of [Mormon] Mill at Lyman Wight colony, Call Number: PH 3755
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)
View of mill (circa 1898) constructed by members of the Lyman Wight colony in Burnet County, Texas. Building was destroyed in 1902.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/cb0a5f04-f04c-4acb-a6b7-dde75f317c75/0/0 (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Photographs of Lyman Wight colony, 1921. Author/Creator: Dunford, Grant Alfred 1899-1971, Call Number: **PH 3030**
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)
Photographs of Lyman Wight colony, 1921; Lyman Wight's rock house, circa 1920; Church History Library, https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/35d515dc-4332-4b08-b258-8abe5942f08a/0?view=browse (accessed: July 21, 2021) [Marble Falls, Hamilton Creek, Mormon Mills]
Four views of the abandoned ruins of Lyman Wight's rock house, the foundation of a mill, and the remains of a dam over a dry creek bed. These remnants were part of a colony established by Lyman Wight on Hamilton Creek in Burnet County, Texas. An accompanying letter, written in Austin, Texas, on 11 August 1921 by the donor, who was serving as a missionary in the Central States Mission, to Andrew Jenson, gives further details concerning the photographs.
Photographs of Lyman Wight colony, 1921; Grant Dunford letter to Andrew Jenson, 1921 August 11; Church History Library,

https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/852928eb-eb6a-4833-bc1c-b94f632b7899/0/0 (accessed: July 21, 2021) Letter written by Elder Grant A. Dunford, August 11, 1921.

Preston, Thomas. "**Preston Thomas**: His Life and Travels, 1942." MS 1928, Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1942. [also located as: "Preston Thomas diaries," MSS 739, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University Library, Brigham Young University]

> Preston served three missions to Texas during his life; this collection contains transcriptions of these journals which encompass an account of his travel with Amasa Lyman to the South to solicit aid for the emigration fund, 1847-1848; and his missionary labors in Texas, 1848-1870. At the end of missions two and three, Preston brought two groups of Saints with him to Utah, in 1853 a group of 13, and in 1856 a group of 29. Includes information concerning his encounters with Lyman Wight, association with emigrant companies from the Southern States, and time spent in Washington, D.C. Also includes prefatory information by Daniel H. Thomas (his son), regarding his father's early life in Tennessee and conversion to the Church in Mississippi in 1844, as well as information covering his later activities in Lehi, Utah and Franklin, Idaho. https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record?id=0dadcb11-c7db-44df-9985-8958b18a67d4&view=browse

Receipts for payment--three handwritten receipts by different members of the Wight colony acknowledging payment for their work on the Austin City jail. (Located at the Austin Public Library, Austin History Center, box FP, A.1, P422, folder 41)

Richter, Robyn. "Austin--Mormon's Promised Land?" Unpublished typescript, n.d. 11 leaves. (Located at the Austin City Public Library, Austin History Center, AF-Mormons-M7500).

> A high school paper that is well-written and contains an excellent bibliography of the Lyman Wight Colony during their Austin settlement period. The author unfortunately confuses the colony's history and chronology.

***Smith, Heman Hale. [Heman Hale Smith Narrative] "The Lyman Wight Colony in Texas, 1846-1858."** Unpublished typescript. July 15, 1920. 58pp. (The original and two copies are located at the Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin, in the following areas: box 2R183, the Lyman Wight Biographical File; and the Thomas Ulvan Taylor Papers-box 2K286 & 2K276. Other retyped manuscripts may be found at: the Archives Division, Texas State Library, Austin, TX; the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) Library-Archives, Independence, MO; the LDS Historical Department, Salt Lake City, UT; and BYU Special Collections as well as several other collections)

> Within box 2R183 are two different copies of Smith's manuscript. 1) The first is a typed, hand-corrected, and numbered 55 + 3-page typescript by Smith to Charles W. Ramsdell (dated July 15, 1920). This is Smith's original manuscript. The manuscript was presumably sent by Smith at Ramsdell's request (he was the Secretary of the Texas State Historical Association at that time) for publication consideration in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Smith's work includes a succinct history of the Mormon Church to 1844, and a history and description of Wight's trip to and colonizing efforts of Texas. Smith quotes heavily from Wight's journal (since destroyed in the Herald Publishing House fire of 1907) and letterbook, journals from the original colonists, George Miller's "Letter of Correspondence," and Smithwick's volume.

2) The second manuscript consists of a 75-page retyped copy of Smith's original manuscript. This typescript was apparently made by the Archives at the request of George S. Arbaugh (of Iowa City) on December 20, 1930. The pagination is different from the original manuscript, and the copy includes four letters and a list of male colony members sent by Smith to Ramsdell after the original manuscript. The letters are dated the 15th, 16th, 19th, and 20th of July 1920. Also included with the Arbaugh copy are A) a one-page bibliography of the Wight colony, and B) a two-page quote from Bigger's volume concerning the Wight colony.

Taylor, Thomas Ulvan. The T. U. Taylor Papers, 1872-1941. (This collection is located at the Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin --box 2K286 & 2K276)

Among the contents of this collection of papers are a typescript copy of Smith's "Lyman Wight Colony...," and two copies of Bowling's "Another Book is Opened...." Most important are: 1) Taylor's correspondence with J. Marvin Hunter, 2) Taylor's working drafts of his "Mormons in Texas" article, and 3) various other materials and correspondences associated with his research of the Lyman Wight colony.

Terry, Thomas Sirls; Jr. "Thomas S. Terry Mission Journal, 1906-1908." MS 33311, Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2007.

Transcription of Terry's journal that details his experiences as a missionary in the South Texas Conference in the Central States Mission from 1906 to 1908. Contains information about relying on the generosity of others to house him and his companions; traveling throughout South Texas by train and on foot; meeting a man who knew Joseph Smith and who had joined Lyman Wight's group in Zodiac, Texas, and the death of Lyman Wight; and returning from his mission to care for his ill wife. Transcript created by Nena F. Foster in 2007. Only available in electronic format.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/5938c568-080c-45f8-877f-9c0ff80b710a/0/0
(accessed: July 21, 2021)

Texas; District Court (Bexar County). Petition, 1854.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Petition of John Bremond for redress in a claim against Lyman Wight. Includes 1955 document of certification. Order to summon Lyman Wight to appear in the District Court to answer the petition of John Bremond.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d40045f7-32be-4301-b373-e45c03a5702b/0/2
(accessed: July 31, 2021)

Texas; District Court (Bexar County). Sheriff's writ, 1854.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Petition of John Bremond for redress in a claim against Lyman Wight. Includes 1955 document of certification. Order to summon Lyman Wight to appear in the District Court to answer the petition of John Bremond.
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d40045f7-32be-4301-b373-e45c03a5702b/1/0

(accessed: July 31, 2021)

Thomas S. Terry mission journal, 1906-1908, Call Number: MS 33311.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Missionary Journal of Elder Thomas S. Terry, Central States Mission, April 4, 1906-March 16, 1908.
Transcription of Terry's journal that details his experiences as a missionary in the South Texas Conference in the Central States Mission from 1906 to 1908. Contains information about relying on the generosity of others to house him and his companions; traveling throughout South Texas by train and on foot; meeting a man who knew Joseph Smith, who had joined Lyman Wight's group in Zodiac, Texas, and the death of Lyman Wight; and returning from his mission to care for his ill wife. Transcript created by Nena F. Foster in 2007. Only available in electronic format.

Turk, T. R. (Turk, Toni Richard 1942-.) "The Kingdom of God As a Buffer State: The Mormon Decision for Texas," (photocopy, **unpublished graduate manuscript,** University of Texas, 1974), 22 pages, (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, LDS Church History Library, M277.64 T939k 1974).

***Turk, T. R. (Turk, Toni Richard 1942-.) **"Mormons in Texas." Unpublished typescript, 1987. 105 leaves**.

The text contains a generic overview of the Lyman Wight colony, with the bulk of the study being devoted to a genealogical identification of all the original Wight colonists, and their children into the next generation. Where the information was available the author furnishes birth, death, and marriage dates (including spouse name), as well as a place of death for each individual. **This is the most detailed work concerning all the individual colonist by name, age and gender.**
https://www.worldcat.org/title/mormons-in-texas-the-lyman-wight-colony/oclc/17988243

Wight, Anna Evelyn Judkins 1903-. **Anna J. Wight letter, Basin, Wyoming**, undated, Call Number: MS 5064 1
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)
Contains information concerning Lyman Wight and his family. Historical Note: Wife of a great-grandson of Lyman Wight. (May only be accessed on-site.)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/5b66dec7-2936-465f-b3fa-b792d5ff170b/0?view=summary (accessed: July 21, 2021)

***__Wight, Levi Lamoni__. Letters, 1862-1891, and __Reminiscences__. (This collection of papers, correspondence, and letters are located at the Briscoe Center for American History, at The University of Texas at Austin --Wight Papers, File 2H369, and 2R300).

File 2H369 contains numerous hand-written letters (and one on film) from 1862 to 1891 between Levi and his wife, Sophia, and various other family members. Most of these letters were written during the Civil War years while Levi was fighting for the Confederacy in Texas. The other part of the file are Levi's reminiscences that are written in one school-

like notebook, in pencil, on one side of the sheet and numbered to page 96.
File 2R300 contains two copies of a typewritten unpublished manuscript (done at the Briscoe Center for American History, between September 1946 and May 1947) of the original handwritten letters and reminiscences of Wight that were donated to the Center by Mrs. William Wight of Dallas in July 1944. https://mormonpolygamydocuments.org/free-documents-index/
Most of the letters (save 18 dated after 1865), and all the reminiscences have been edited and published in ***The Reminiscences and Civil War Letters of Levi Lamoni Wight: Life in a Mormon Splinter Colony on the Texas Frontier.*** Edited by Davis Bitton. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1970. 191pp. ISBN 0-87480-060-9.

Wight, Orange L. "Recollections of **Orange L. Wight**, Son of Lyman Wight." Letter dated May 4, 1903. (This letter was written by Orange Wight at the request of and to Joseph I. Earl--manuscript located at BYU, and the LDS Church Archives)

An excellent first-person account by the eldest son of Lyman Wight – starts when he was a boy in Missouri and describes, from his point of view, the hardships and deprivations that he and his family, especially his mother went through. From Missouri to Nauvoo, then to Wisconsin at the pinery, his own mission experience and marriages.
The letter is described on page 382 in Davis Bitton's, *Guide to Mormon Diaries & Autobiographies*, Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 1977.
https://doctrineandcovenantscentral.org/history/orange-l-wight/
https://mormonpolygamydocuments.org/free-documents-index/

Wight, Lyman 1796-1858. Lyman Wight correspondence**,** 1848-1856 , Call Number:
MS 2046. (Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah)

Includes letters from Sidney Rigdon and George Miller and letters to Samuel Brannan. Annotations made by Val G. Hemming. Originals in possession of the Reorganized Church. Publication rights reserved. https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

Wight, Lyman 1796-1858. Promissory note, 1842 January 4. Call Number: MS 21380.
(Located at the Church History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah) https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/, https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/start-your-research)

A document **signed by Wight, Peter Haws, Henry W. Miller, and J. L. Brown in the sum of $783.19** agreeing to pay Charles Ivins. Contains a notation that interest through 22 August 1842 is $29.76. (May only be accessed on-site.)
https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/ff6329c2-6ad3-4989-abf5-44819ca0c96b/0?view=summary (accessed: July 21, 2021)

Woodworth, Lucien. Correspondence of Lucien Woodworth to Sam Houston. Letter dated July 14, 1844. (Located at the LDS Church Archives, Salt Lake City, UT; typescript of letter may also be found in Durning's thesis "A History of the Mormon Church in Texas").

https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/appendix-1-letter-lucien-woodworth-to-

sam-houston-14-july-1844/1#full-transcript
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/recommendation-for-lucien-woodworth-16-march-1844/1
https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/council-of-fifty-minutes-march-1844-january-1846-volume-1-10-march-1844-1-march-1845/1#full-transcript

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Copies of all my research and a photo of the actual Mormon Mill may be found at:
https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/01287/cah-01287.html
and
http://archives.lib.byu.edu/repositories/14/resources/1422

google images of Lyman Wight Accessed April 2021
https://www.google.com/search?q=lyman+wight+colony&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwin9ZPw08rvAhUwjK0KHTzuAuwQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=lyman+wight+colony&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1C9qQFYj5ICYKeYAmgBcAB4AIABlwGIAcEbkgEENTIuM5gBAKABAaoBC2d3cy13aXotaW1nwAEB&sclient=img&ei=DRhcYOe6IrCYtgW83IvgDg&bih=714&biw=1320&rlz=1C1CHZL_enUS738US738

google images of Mormon Mills Accessed April 2021
https://www.google.com/search?q=mormon+mills+texas&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwie54mC1MrvAhUKNK0KHQ_jCIoQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=mormon+mills&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQARgAMgQIABAYOgUIABCxAzoCCAA6BAgAEEM6CAgAELEDEIMBOgYIABAFEB5QxZMFWJG2BWC_zQVoAHAAeAKAAWKIAacPkgECMjmYAQCgAQGqAQtnd3Mtd2l6LWltZ7ABAMABAQ&sclient=img&ei=MxhcYN6BCYrotAWPxqPQCA&bih=714&biw=1320&rlz=1C1CHZL_enUS738US738